


# BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

## For Fiscal Year 2022

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p><b>Spectrum Mid-America, LLC and its subsidiary Spectrum Mid-America WI-FY2022, LLC, each managed by Charter Communications, Inc. ("Spectrum" or "Charter") 1320 N Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Milwaukee, WI 53212 Attn: Celeste Flynn 414-277-4193 Celeste.flynn@charter.com</b></p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx</a>. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022</b> at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. <b>Late applications will not be accepted.</b></p>
	<p>Contact for further information: <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a></p>
	<p>Date: <b>December 1, 2021</b></p>
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>	
<p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>	
<p>Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)</p> <p><b>Joseph J. Sherer II</b></p>	<p>Title:</p> <p><b>Vice President, Regional Engineering of Charter Communications, Inc., the Manager of the Applicants</b></p>
<p>Phone: <b>(608) 467-9202</b></p>	
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> 	<p>Date</p> <p><b>3/17/2022</b></p>

# SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name <b>Spectrum Mid-America, LLC and its subsidiary          Spectrum Mid-America WI-FY2022, LLC,          each managed by Charter Communications,          Inc. ("Spectrum" or "Charter")</b>	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar)  <b>\$1,890,497</b>
Federal Employer Identification No. <b>Spectrum Mid-America, LLC: 43-1857213</b>  <b>Spectrum Mid-America WI-FY2022, LLC: 88-1251860</b>	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$3,881,775 Charter</b> <b>\$1,200,000 Town of Presque Isle</b> <b>Total: \$5,081,775</b>
Contact Name and Title <b>Celeste Flynn, Director, Govt. Affairs</b>	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar)  <b>\$6,972,272</b>
Telephone Number <b>(414)277-4193</b>	Project Name  <b>BB App Spectrum, Presque Isle</b>
E-mail Address(es) <b>celeste.flynn@charter.com</b>	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) <b>FTTP EPON</b>
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant  <b>N/A</b>	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) <b>Last-Mile</b>
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations <b>Public Partner Name: Town of Presque Isle</b> <b>Attn: Lorine Walters, Town Clerk</b> <b>Address: PO Box 130, Presque Isle, WI 54557</b> <b>FEIN Number: 39-6006069</b>	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) <b>Charter requests a grant to support the construction of a new last-mile fiber-to-the-premises ("FTTP") via Ethernet passive optical network ("FTTP EPON" or "EPON") to provide high-speed broadband access to approximately 1095 unserved and underserved locations in the Town of Presque Isle. Charter does not request any funding to support its existing network infrastructure.</b>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed <b>1000 Mbps (Scalable to higher Gig speeds in the future)</b>	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed <b>500 Mbps (Scalable to 1000 Mbps / 1 Gig or higher in the future)</b>

Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location <b>200 Mbps (30 Mbps – Spectrum low income offering)</b>	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location <b>10 Mbps (4 Mbps – Spectrum’s low income offering)</b>
County or Counties served by this project <b>Vilas</b>	Community or Communities served by this project <b>Town of Presque Isle</b>
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve  <b>Lumen (CenturyLink)</b>	
Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1.4</a> of the application instruction? (yes/no)  <b>Yes</b>	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no)  <b>Yes</b>
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). <b>Approximately 9</b>	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). <b>Approximately 1086</b>
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? <b>0</b>	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? <b>14</b>
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) <b>N/A</b>	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) <b>Yes and through its successor program the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)</b>	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing’s Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission’s voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	

# FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

## Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

### Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Spectrum Mid-America, LLC and its subsidiary Spectrum Mid-America WI-FY2022, LLC, each managed by Charter Communications, Inc.	BB App Spectrum, Presque Isle County

### Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 1,399,951.00	\$ 3,763,158.00	\$ 5,163,109.00
2	Equipment	\$ 490,546.00	\$ 1,318,617.00	\$ 1,809,163.00
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)			\$ -
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			\$ -
6	Travel			\$ -
7	Other			\$ -
Total:		\$ 1,890,497.00	\$ 5,081,775.00	\$ 6,972,272.00
				72.9% match requested

### Pledged Contributions

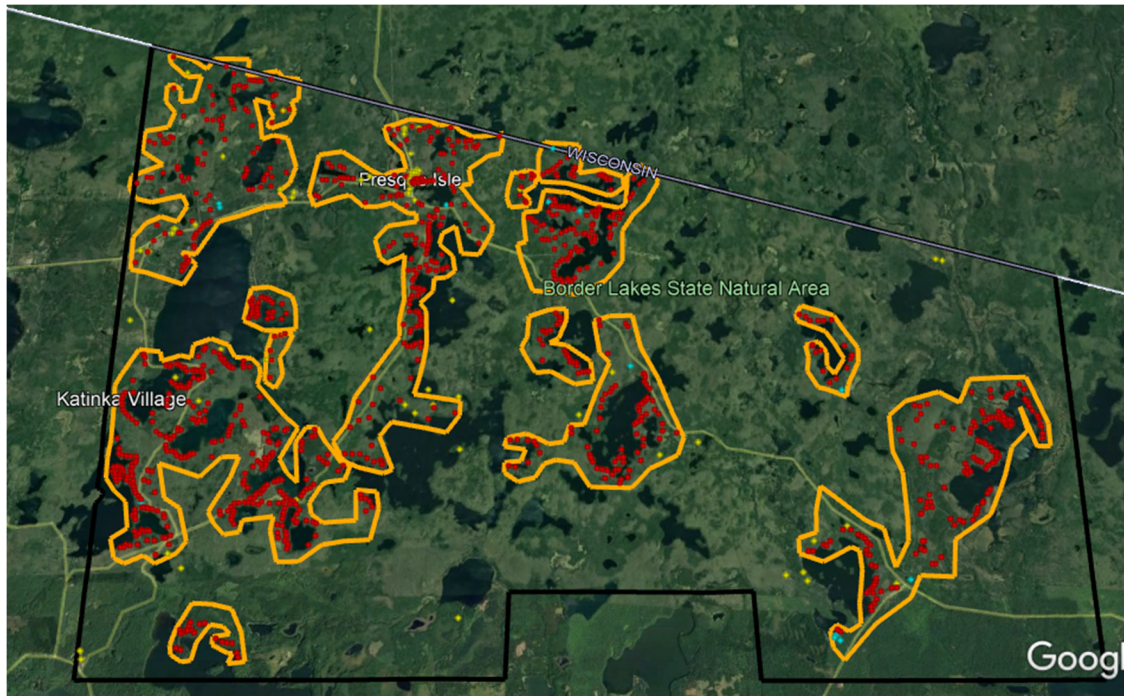
#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Spectrum Mid-America, LLC and its subsidiary Spectrum Mid-America WI-FY2022, LLC, each managed by Charter Communications, Inc.	Applicant	Cash	\$ 3,881,775.00
2	Presque Isle	Partner	Cash	\$ 1,200,000.00
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 5,081,775.00

These costs do not include certain direct and indirect costs, reflecting contributions to the Project by Charter personnel that Charter is proposing to absorb itself, and for which this application does not seek grant funding. Project costs are limited to direct expenses for materials and contractor labor, only allowable expenses are included. All network builds and expansion will be fully owned by Charter. Funds requested in this Application will be used solely for the purpose of constructing and installing new broadband infrastructure throughout the designated grant area. While the Project will utilize and leverage existing facilities and assets to deliver broadband service to the Project area, Charter is not seeking funding for any portion of its existing asset base. No grant funds will be used for subsidizing operating costs.

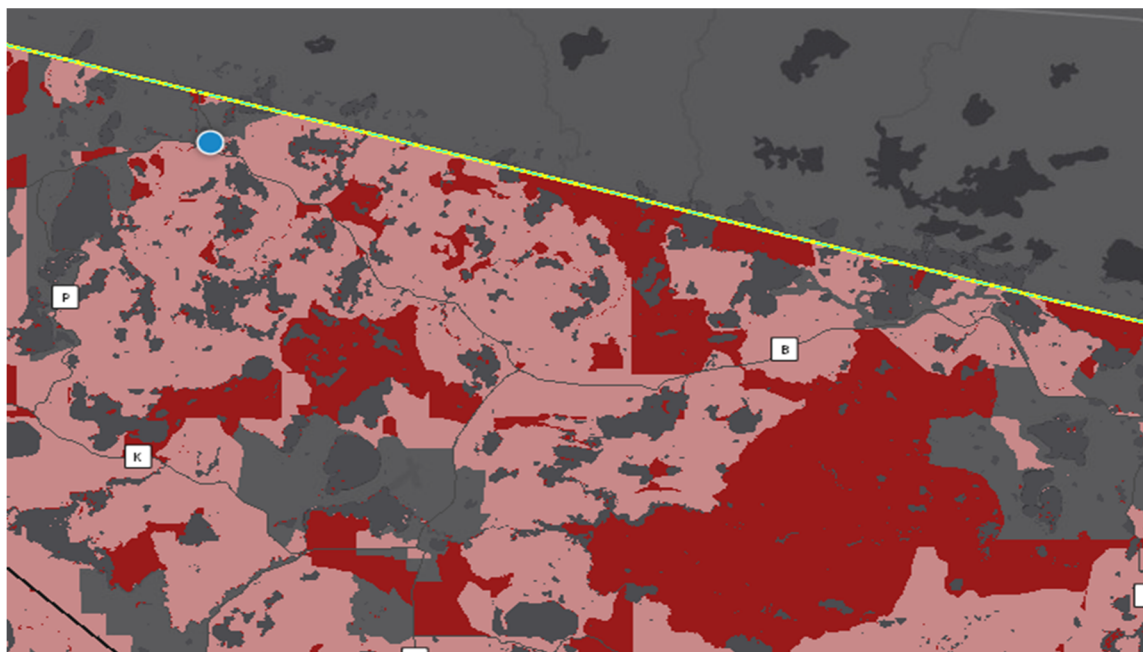


### Description of the Project Area to Be Served

The proposed Project Area is within the municipal boundary of the Town of Presque Isle in Vilas County. The Project includes building nearly 150 miles of fiber optic network to connect an estimated 1095 underserved homes, businesses and community anchor institutions. A map of the proposed project is shown below. When combined with RDOF, this Application, once approved and built will result in virtually all homes in the Town having access to gigabit broadband speeds.



State Eligibility Map:



## I. Executive Summary of the Project

Town of Presque Isle, in collaboration with Charter, is requesting a grant to construct a last-mile fiber-to-the-premises (“FTTP”) via Ethernet passive optical network (“FTTP EPON” or “EPON”) to provide service to unserved and underserved households in the Town of Presque Isle (the “Project”). The proposed Project Area is within the municipal boundary of the Town of Presque Isle in Vilas County. **The Project includes building nearly 150 miles of fiber optic network to connect an estimated 1095 underserved homes, businesses and community anchor institutions.**

The Project will use Charter’s FTTP EPON architecture, a standardized and mature model that is operated by Charter across the country, engineered and managed to meet 1 Gbps downstream speeds, 500 Mbps upstream speeds (and engineered to be scalable to higher speeds in the future), and latency of well below 100 milliseconds. Charter’s FTTP EPON deployment is relevant and suitable for remote learning and remote working, offering very high bandwidth and low latency service attributes that accommodate numerous members of a household or small business simultaneously using bandwidth-intensive applications, such as video conferencing, telemedicine, video streaming, gaming, virtual or augmented reality sessions, and numerous other applications. New customers in the Project Area will have access to several Internet speed options, including Charter’s “Spectrum Internet” with a standard starting speed of up to 200/10 Mbps and Charter’s “Internet Gig” service at up to 1000/500 Mbps. Additional services that will be available to Charter Internet customers include, but are not limited to, anti-virus security protection and in-home WiFi. As an added benefit of its FTTP network, Charter will also be in a position to offer competitive video, mobile and voice services in the grant area.

Because Charter has a well-established process for initiating and overseeing new construction projects, existing relationships with contractors to perform design, make-ready and construction work, and holds numerous regulatory authorizations and pole attachment agreements that can facilitate prompt access to rights-of-way and utility poles, it anticipates that it would be able to start work on the Project promptly upon approval. If awarded grant funds, Charter anticipates beginning the project promptly with completion within the project period of up to 24 months, subject to timing of grant awards. Any delay in meeting that time frame related to pole attachment make-ready work required to install facilities, permitting, ability to access relevant locations, or other issues outside Spectrum’s reasonable control, including pandemic-related or raw materials shortages, would promptly be brought to the attention of the PSC in order to secure additional time to complete the Project.

## II. Priority Factors

### a. Matching Funds

Charter estimates the direct cost of this network construction at \$6,972,272, and requests a \$1,890,497 (27%) grant to complete the Project. Charter and the Town of Presque Isle would contribute the remaining cost to complete the Project—a contribution of \$3,881,775 from Charter; and \$1,200,000 from the Town of Presque Isle, a combined \$5,081,775, or 73% of the Project’s up-front, direct construction costs. In addition, Charter will absorb all indirect costs and all operational costs of the Project going forward.

Charter’s commitment to contribute or absorb substantial costs associated with the Project, and seek grant funding for only a portion of the direct construction costs for the new network facilities, results in a budget that will leverage Charter’s existing resources, maximize the impact of grant funds, and streamline grant administration due to the limited nature of the expenditures for which Charter is seeking reimbursement.

Charter will be able to leverage its substantial existing internal resources and expertise to provide its management and supervision of the Project, and is not seeking reimbursement of its costs associated with project administration or any design, coordination, and other tasks that will be carried out by Charter internal employees within its construction, engineering, and field operations organizations. In addition to increasing the cost-effectiveness of state funds, Charter's commitment to limit the expenses included in the budget will simplify administration of the grant and verification that grant funds are expended only for allowable costs.

As set forth in the accompanying budget spreadsheet and justification, the Project includes within its proposed budget only a limited set of Charter's estimated direct, verifiable costs of construction. These consist of estimated material costs; direct contractor labor to carry out design, make-ready, and construction work; and licensing/permitting expenses. As previously stated, indirect costs and certain other direct costs associated with the effort—such as the contributions by Charter's internal employees on project design, supervision, and management—will be absorbed by Charter as part of its regular operations.

The network will also be backed and operated by Charter, the nation's second-largest broadband provider with extensive experience owning, operating, maintaining, and upgrading broadband networks, as well as well-recognized financial stability. Charter's financial resources and recognized, investment-backed commitment to rural America provide reassurance that Charter will be able to carry out the terms of the grant and continue to operate the system going forward. While these resources and assets are essential for the Project's success, Charter is not requesting any grant funding or support for its existing assets or facilities.

**It is important to note that the Town of Presque Isle has received over 140 letters and emails of support from residents, businesses, and other stakeholders anxious for better broadband service in Presque Isle so much so that 28 of the letters received included a total of \$26,000 in pledges of support to help the Town meet its financial commitment to this project.**

## **b. Public-private partnership**

### **Proposed Joint Project Between Town of Presque Isle and Charter**

The Project will be a joint effort between Town of Presque Isle and Charter, with Charter acting as the primary applicant and assuming responsibility for the construction and operation of the proposed network.

The Town of Presque Isle is actively engaged with the Project, and will:

- Support the project through collaborative oversight, community engagement, facilitating installation operations, and direct marketing activities.
- Consult with Charter to verify build-to-location data in the proposal, including final verification of Project locations.
- Support Removal of Regulatory Barriers. Charter, as described below, is well versed in managing the regulatory processes associated with the deployment of its broadband network. Nonetheless, sometimes obstacles arise that are beyond Charter's control, such as local permitting issues, pole attachments, and access to rights-of-way and easements. To the extent it is within its scope of authority, the Town of Presque Isle will work with Charter to coordinate removal of these obstacles.

- Assign the Town Broadband Committee to serve as the contact between the Town and Charter during the Project. The Committee works directly with the Town Board through a designated liaison to expedite issue resolution. The Committee currently includes members with expertise in zoning, accounting/finance, and information/communications technology. Additional town resources will be added as needed.
- Assign a Project Manager with appropriate expertise to work with Charter on operational issues during the Project. The Project Manager will escalate issues to the Town Broadband Committee or the Town Board when necessary.
- Host periodic public information sessions during the Project's construction and implementation. The Town plans to have a dedicated website to provide "one stop shopping" for Presque Isle residents and business owners to find out the most current information as well as how they can benefit from the Project. The Town plans to work directly with Charter Marketing to help with information sharing.
- Work with Charter on rollout planning to make sure that the on-boarding process for residents is as simple as possible. The Town recognizes that this will be critical for a positive consumer uptake experience, and to ensure the community recognizes and pursues the opportunities improved broadband internet will bring.

Charter, described in more detail below, is an experienced service provider and a leading broadband company, and is well-versed and experienced in abiding by all necessary federal, state, and local requirements that are impacted during the build out and expansion of its network. Charter's role in the Covered Partnership will consist of:

- **Construction Management:** If the Project is selected for a grant, Charter will work with Town of Presque Isle to verify Project data regarding unserved and underserved households and businesses, secure the necessary permits, pole attachments, and other authority as necessary to support the Projects. In addition, Charter will complete the construction plan (including timeframes and costs) and manage all other aspects of the construction effort, maintenance of the system, and customer intake and service delivery. All networks builds and expansion will be fully owned by Charter or a Charter affiliate.
- **Commitment of Funds and Personnel:** If the Project is selected for a grant, Charter will contribute substantial private financial and operational resources to ensure the success of the Project, consisting of:
  1. A direct cash contribution to the direct design, construction, and licensing and permitting costs for the Project (a commitment estimated at \$3,881,775, or 56% of the estimated direct construction costs of the Project);
  2. A contribution of all indirect costs of the Project, which Charter will absorb itself; and
  3. By absorbing all other direct costs of the Project not captured in the direct design, construction, and licensing/permitting costs, including supervision and management of the effort by Charter personnel.
- **Collaborating on Community Engagement:** Work with the Town of Presque Isle to assist with digital literacy and broadband adoption strategies.

Letters of Commitment for each member of the partnership, setting forth their respective roles, are attached to this application as **Exhibit A**.

### c. Existing broadband service

Lumen, offering DSL service under the CenturyLink brand, is the only Internet service provider in the Town of Presque Isle. According to the PSC's eligibility map and the town's Broadband Committee, the entire proposed Project Area is eligible for the grant program. The Project will have a substantial impact in the Project Area by connecting an estimated 1095 households, businesses and anchor institutions, to last-mile connections providing 100% of those locations with access to a first-in-class, Gigabit network offering speeds of up to 1000Mbps/500Mbps with very low latency, transforming the broadband offerings available in the community.

#### Current Competitor Speeds in Project Area

##### *Town of Presque Isle:*

While the FCC Broadband 477 data submitted by the provider states that 76% of the Town has speeds greater than 25 Mbps, Dave Bogan, Co- Chair of the Town of Presque Isle Broadband Committee stated the following:

"One of the issues with ISP reporting to the FCC is that it is the advertised speed, not the actual speed that can be delivered. If you look at CenturyLink's own website for an address in Presque Isle, they do not offer more than 15Mb speed. We know that they no longer offer bonded service in our area, which is the only way to achieve 25Mb. At one time, CenturyLink offered 80Mb service to a limited area near Crab Lake. This was done as a special deal and was never expanded beyond the test area, and is no longer available."

Wireline Carrier*	FCC Tier	Tech Type	Max Down Speed	Max Up Speed	Census Block Count	% of Project Census Blocks**
CenturyLink, Inc.	<= 25 Mbps	DSL	25	2	9	14.3%
CenturyLink, Inc.	> 25 and <= 100 Mbps	DSL	100	10	48	76.2%
CenturyLink, Inc.	> 25 and <= 100 Mbps	FTTH	100	10	1	1.6%
CenturyLink, Inc.	> 500 and <= 1,000 Mbps	FTTH	940	940	3	4.8%

\*Competitors who do not specify speeds are not included in list.

\*\*Does not total 100% as multiple competitors can overlap and some census blocks may be unserved

Source: FCC Broadband 477 database Dec 2020

### d. Project impact

#### Service Offerings and Price

Upon completion, residents in the proposed Project Area will have access to Charter's Spectrum Internet Gig service (up to 1000/500 Mbps). With Spectrum Internet, customers can simultaneously stream videos, download music and more without sacrificing performance. Spectrum provides free modems and the fastest, most powerful in-home WiFi to do more on more devices.

Charter employs a nationwide pricing structure (called Spectrum Pricing & Packaging), which offers standardized pricing for each tier of broadband internet service Charter offers new customers across its service territory. Charter's pricing strategy ensures that rural customers receive the same pricing as other highly competitive areas in the state. Charter's wireline broadband offerings currently include no data caps, usage-based pricing, early termination or modem fees.

Current prices for Charter’s Spectrum Internet Assist, Spectrum Internet, and Spectrum Internet Ultra service tiers, and its planned pricing for the Spectrum Internet Gig service tier, are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1: Standard Charter Wireline Residential Broadband Service Offerings and Prices**

Speed Tier <sup>2</sup>	Downstream Mbps	Upstream Mbps	Standard Monthly Rate – without Promotional Pricing <sup>3</sup>	Installation Fee
Spectrum Internet Assist <sup>4</sup>	30	4	\$17.99	\$0.00 <sup>5</sup>
Spectrum Internet	200	10	\$74.99	\$49.99
Spectrum Internet Ultra	400	20	\$94.99	\$49.99
Spectrum Internet Gig	1000	500	\$114.99	\$49.99

In addition to the standard, non-promotional rates itemized above, Charter may also offer promotional pricing, including bundled discounts. Charter’s current promotional offerings can be found at <https://www.spectrum.com/internet>.<sup>6</sup> Spectrum’s terms of service will apply to all tiers of service. In addition to wireline broadband services, Charter will also offer video, voice, and mobile services in the grant area.

### Low Income Programs

Spectrum has engaged in several initiatives and established numerous business practices that benefit consumers in need and demonstrate our commitment to the community. As described below, Spectrum has established several programs to provide low cost internet service particularly for students and remote learning, has assisted customers struggling to pay their bills for service, and supported communities by providing good paying jobs and long-term careers, and strengthening local organizations. Charter’s current programs are described below. Just recently, Charter announced an enhanced affordability solution called “Internet 100” for \$29.99, which is tied to the federal government’s new Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Customers qualifying for ACP in Wisconsin will be eligible to receive a new low-cost, low-income product offering of up to 100Mbps download and 10Mbps upload for less than the monthly \$30 ACP subsidy. This service will remain available for the duration of the ACP.<sup>7</sup> For the duration of the ACP, Charter also currently plans to continue offering Spectrum Internet Assist to customers who meet the eligibility and prefer to purchase that service.

- **Stay Connected K-12 Program:** To help address the lack of Internet connectivity faced by some student households, through the Stay Connected K-12 program, Spectrum is working directly with schools and school districts across its footprint to assist them in offering high-speed, cable

<sup>1</sup> All rates, speeds and terms of service stated herein are subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Represented pricing is for wireline broadband service only. In addition to wireline broadband services, Charter will also offer video, voice, and mobile services in the grant area.

<sup>3</sup> Customers can add WiFi for \$5.00 per month (Spectrum Internet Assist, Spectrum Internet & Spectrum Internet Ultra).

<sup>4</sup> Spectrum’s Internet Assist program provides 30 Mbps broadband to qualified families with children on the National School Lunch Program or seniors receiving supplemental income.

<sup>5</sup> For self-installation only. Additional fees may apply for professional installation.

<sup>6</sup> All promotional offers are subject to change and may not be available in all areas or to all customers.

<sup>7</sup> The discount is up to \$75 per month in Tribal Lands. The ACP is limited to one monthly service credit per household. Other program qualifications and restrictions may be found at [www.spectrum.net/support/internet/affordable-connectivity-program](http://www.spectrum.net/support/internet/affordable-connectivity-program). Terms and conditions of product service and offering may be subject to change.

broadband Internet access to students, educators, and staff in their homes. Spectrum is currently connecting thousands of students and educators through this program across the Country. This product offering helps to ensure that learning, teaching, and working are uninterrupted by giving schools and school districts the flexibility to add students to the program when needed, and provide much-needed in-home connectivity at speeds up to 50 Mbps/5 Mbps. To date, Spectrum has established such relationships with school districts in Wisconsin and 18 other states, including Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.

- **Bulk Rate Solution to Bridge Digital Divide:** Charter now also offers a bulk rate partnership opportunity for counties, municipalities, housing authorities, or other local entities to identify homes in underserved areas and provide them with a heavily discounted bulk rate for Spectrum's Internet service offering. If the County is interested in exploring a bulk rate discount program, Spectrum is happy to further discuss this at the appropriate time.

#### e. Scalability

Charter's participation in the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") rural broadband expansion program will allow significant synergies with Charter's existing infrastructure and scalability in connection with this Project. Charter's RDOF will add 7,449<sup>8</sup> additional locations in Vilas County beyond what the proposed Project would provide.

Charter's network design offers scalability that non-wireline offerings cannot match. The FTTP EPON architecture proposed for the Project will scale to support customer growth and data usage growth for (a) ever increasing application requirements; (b) increasing quality demand; and (c) lower response/latency demands for ever increasing usage of highly interactive applications.

FTTP EPON technologies leverage fiber optic cables that provide vast amounts of bandwidth over a very low loss transmission medium. Fiber backbones operated by the largest communications companies in the world, such as Charter, rely on fiber optic cables to carry Terabits per second of traffic in a single fiber strand. This same technology concept is applied in the last mile FTTP architecture, providing growth support for decades to come. Scalable elements also include routers and switches that support higher speeds and services.

As Charter adds customers over time and as customers consume more bandwidth, Charter's scalable model and proven capacity management processes will accommodate this growth. While Charter will be building a new last mile FTTP EPON network in the Project Area, this last mile network will be connected to Charter's existing robust and scalable network tiers, which are already in place and ready for growth. Charter augments its capacity through normal operating procedures, and these procedures will extend to the proposed Project Area seamlessly.

In addition, recognizing the importance of fast, reliable service for community institutions, **Charter also offers up to 100 Gbps symmetrical speeds to large businesses, schools, libraries, hospitals, and other important community institutions through customized dedicated builds by its Spectrum Enterprise business organization.** The present application and proposed budget do not include the costs of such

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<sup>8</sup> Estimated number of locations provided by the FCC at the time of award. Actual number of locations subject to future walkout, design, engineering and other verification.



customized builds; however, Charter’s network presence in the project area would better position the company to make such offers available.

## f. Economic development

Our partner Presque Isle offers the following input:

The Town of Presque Isle adopted the slogan “*Wisconsin’s Last Wilderness*” in the 1970s and is known for pristine lakes, streams, forests, and undeveloped wilderness. Presque Isle does not have larger employers or significant manufacturing. The Town’s economy is highly dependent on year-round tourism, seasonal residents, and a growing number of retirees. These make up the base that drives the Town’s local hospitality and retail businesses as well as its local building contractors, plumbers, electricians, and other service businesses. The Town believes this project will help expand its economic base to include innovative or non-traditional forms of business and commerce while providing growth opportunities to its existing businesses.

In its recently completed 2021 Comprehensive Plan, Presque Isle sets forth goals to drive decision making over the next decade in housing, transportation, utilities and community facilities, land use, and economic development. **The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, who assisted the Town with this plan, identified that one of Presque Isle’s primary weaknesses for attracting or retaining both residents and businesses is the limited broadband service levels available throughout the Town.**<sup>9</sup> As further evidence of this shortfall, the entire Town is considered unserved or underserved for broadband by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

While Presque Isle’s permanent population is just over 800 people, the peak summer population swells to over 6,000. Improved broadband provides a way to extend the duration of that peak, which in turn puts more money into the local retail and service economy.

The Comprehensive Plan points out several trends in Presque Isle’s employment mix among industry sectors, as shown in the following table:

Table 21: Employment by Industry Sector				
Industry Sector	Town of Presque Isle		Vilas County	
	2010	2018	2010	2018
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0	0	222	216
Construction	64	52	1,113	980
Manufacturing	13	9	512	386
Wholesale trade	9	0	164	158
Retail trade	35	8	1,517	1,361
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5	8	357	401
Information	12	6	243	185

<sup>9</sup> Emphasis added.



Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	3	11	633	445
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	45	25	600	835
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	14	30	1,684	1,577
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	50	20	1,791	1,650
Other services, except public administration	13	22	460	517
Public administration	0	5	468	471
Total:	263	196	9,764	9,182

*Source: American Community Survey*

This data supports the Town's belief that area job opportunities for local residents have declined since 2010, and available employment continues to shift towards a service economy. National and regional trends indicate that local employment will directly benefit from this Project, as economic growth will be more information-based rather than labor-based.

This Project is in direct support of the Comprehensive Plan's strategies for economic development:

1. Retain and enhance employment opportunities.
2. Support business development which strengthens and diversifies the economic base; creates family wage jobs; develops and operates in a manner that protects the environment; and uses our natural resources efficiently.
3. Accommodate home-based businesses that are compatible with the Town's services, infrastructure, character, and natural resources.
4. Support remote employment by providing infrastructure and amenities that allow residents to live, work, or operate a business locally regardless of the location of their employer or employees.

The Comprehensive Plan includes two short-term Implementation initiatives. First, to "pursue initiatives, programs, and emerging commercial and technical opportunities that will bring availability of robust broadband internet service throughout the Town: particularly service that will promote businesses and economic activity." Second, to "conduct a study to evaluate opportunities and develop a plan to establish a smoke-stack-free Business Park or Enterprise Zone that is compatible with the Town's services, infrastructure, and character." The success of any such development is highly dependent on the availability of a strong broadband infrastructure.

The Town knows from local real estate professionals that the lack of broadband service is becoming a factor in attracting home buyers throughout the Northwoods; the Town fully expects this trend to continue if strong broadband service remains unavailable. With more neighboring towns offering high speed broadband, Presque Isle is at a competitive disadvantage for new home buyers, new commercial

development, and renovation projects. Margaret Johnson, who has been a practicing attorney and realtor in the township for 40 years, strongly endorses this Project, saying, *“With effective internet the potential of our population, young and old, is unlimited; without it the future of the next generation is stymied and relegated to a second-class economy and loss of the intellectual talent of our youth.”*

Along with the lack of broadband in Presque Isle, the Town also suffers from a lack of reliable mobile voice and internet service. There are only two commercial cell towers within the 74 square miles of the Town; these towers only provide coverage for the northern and western portions of the Town. By bringing a fiber backbone to the entire Town, this Project will facilitate the development and installation of a cell network that will serve the entire Town.

The Town believes the proposed Project will:

- Allow Presque Isle to better compete for businesses and residential property buyers;
- Provide remote work options for full time residents, seasonal residents, and visitors;
- Give visitors a reason to stay longer in the area, bringing more vitality into the local economy;
- Provide access to tele-health and tele-medicine services from both local and national providers;
- Provide better options for remote learning to students of all ages;
- Facilitate growth of local job opportunities for current and future residents; and
- Position the Town for a future where commerce, communications, entertainment and so many facets of life will involve internet access.

The proposed Project is critical for the Town to achieve these goals. Without a strong broadband infrastructure and internet service available throughout the Town, Presque Isle cannot create the economic and recreational opportunities that will attract and retain a younger population, deliver better services to the full time and seasonal residents, or provide a backbone for business opportunities that could not have been imagined a few years ago.

**Economic impact the project could have for an individual business located in the project area.**

Our partner Presque Isle offers the following input: Presque Isle’s unique attribute is its wilderness setting and many of the people attracted to the Town are engaged in knowledge enterprises, such as finance, law, R&D, design, expert consulting, and the like. Access to data, ability to coordinate and share insight and expertise, and the ability to adaptively team to respond to evolving challenges fundamentally depend on robust access to the data and services provisioned by broadband internet. Further, many of these professionals require secure access to conduct business; this project will help eliminate those barriers. For example, we have testimonials from retired researchers and professors that they would remain active in studies and teaching if they had robust, reliable access to data, partners, and students. We have part-time residents who own and manage businesses throughout the Midwest who describe how much more time they would spend in Presque Isle if they could be guaranteed access to their staffs, business data, and critical stakeholders via robust, secure internet service.

**How an improved download and upload transmission speed could better support a specific business in the project area.**

Our partner Presque Isle offers the following input: **A local professional photographer makes his living by specializing in outdoor wilderness and recreational images which he sells to individuals, publications, and businesses. Digital images are large files, so this business currently struggles downloading and uploading these files with current internet speeds.**<sup>10</sup> This project would make his business much more efficient and would allow him to broaden his product offerings, expand his client base, and bring in more sales.

**How improved broadband service could have an impact on residential property values, supported by local sales data if available.**

Our partner Presque Isle offers the following input: **While we do not have sales data, we have consistent anecdotal reports from local realtors that buyers looking to buy or build in Presque Isle are discriminating and are willing to pay a premium to come to a community blessed with the Town's natural wilderness setting. Increasingly, prospective buyers are also asking about the technology services, particularly cell and internet access that are available, and realtors describe sales that have been lost because prospective buyers will not accept a lack of service.**<sup>11</sup> The Town wants technology services to be as attractive as our natural setting to prospective buyers. The Town believes that improved broadband service will also incentivize property owners to redevelop or modernize the many legacy Northwoods "cabins" that were built on our lakeshores 50, 75, and 100 years ago. Improving the existing housing stock will both increase property values and the tax base and will also make visits to the Town more comfortable and of longer duration – improving economic activity and the vitality of the community.

**How improved broadband service to a residential portion of the project could benefit a telecommuting population.**

Our partner Presque Isle offers the following input: **The COVID pandemic has shown that many professionals can sustain their employment while operating remotely. With improved broadband service, professionals who traditionally could only spend a week or two in Presque Isle could spend an entire summer or winter season in the area. These property owners significantly underpin the tax base of the town. Expanding the time and seasons when they can telecommute will be a huge boon to the Town's economy. Robust broadband internet will allow young adults and the children of residents and visitors to continue their education or their emerging careers while basing or spending time at cherished family homes and in a wonderful North Woods setting.**<sup>12</sup>

**How the speeds and service being offered by the project fits with current and future economic needs of the community and local businesses.**

Our partner Presque Isle offers the following input: **Current internet speeds throughout Presque Isle can easily be categorized as insufficient and having a negative impact on the Town's economic wellbeing. The whole intent of this Project is to install a future-proof broadband solution to meet the ever expanding need for access and capacity of both current and future residents, businesses, and visitors to the Town. The Project will provide residential users with enough capacity to meet their**

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<sup>10</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>11</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>12</sup> Emphasis added.

**everyday internet access needs -- communication, information, entertainment, and education -- at a reasonable price.**<sup>13</sup>The higher speed tiers will provide both new and existing businesses with the connectivity and access to information they need to compete and be successful.

**A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services.**

Our partner Presque Isle offers the following input: **The closest medical center or hospital to Presque Isle is 30 miles with a normal travel time of 40+ minutes. Medical services in this rural region are a relatively scarce resource and scheduling and wait-times can be long. Improving or simplifying access to healthcare providers is an absolute necessity for all the Town's residents, but especially retirees and seniors. Minimizing physical travel to medical services via tele-health and tele-medicine can only improve the well-being and level of care available to the Town's residents, as well as reducing costs to both patients and providers. In addition, access to remote medical services will reduce the number of patients delaying care until it is acute and dependent upon a local volunteer EMS resource.**<sup>14</sup> Dr. Susan Turney, CEO of the Marshfield Clinic and Health System states in her letter endorsing Presque Isle's broadband proposal, *"Despite the rapid advancement of Telehealth, access to broadband internet services continue to be our patients' top barrier in accessing these services"*.

Charter's proposed FTTP network is well suited for bandwidth-intensive applications like telemedicine. Charter's FTTP network would enable customers to engage in virtual doctor visits without leaving their homes. Accordingly, telehealth is a promising approach to reduce health disparities in rural communities by bringing specialized healthcare to these communities where such care was previously unavailable. Telehealth also facilitates monitoring and follow-up care for chronic health conditions, and connecting providers in remote areas, mental health services, and access to online pharmacies. Local public health departments can also leverage telehealth approaches to better serve their communities.

**A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.**

Our partner Presque Isle offers the following input: **While the community is proud of the quality of education offered at their regional public schools, expanded broadband access will have a profound impact on students' access to resources and tailored curriculum that go beyond the traditional classroom setting and the instructional staff. Access to language, advanced-placement, and tailored educational programs will allow more students to thrive and grow according to their own interests and abilities. Additionally, many of the Town's residents have interest in technical or continuing educational programs. The nearest regional community and technical college is Nicolet College in Rhinelander, WI – almost 60 miles away. Offerings are increasingly available online for these educational programs, and robust broadband would make this practical, convenient, and affordable for many in the community.**<sup>15</sup>

Presque Isle has received very strong letters of endorsement for this broadband initiative from the local Elementary and High Schools. Dr. Martin, the Lakeland Union High School Administrator, cites broadband as *"a significant factor in enabling us to provide 21st century learning skills to our students"* and is vital to *"our goal of developing students who can not only be well prepared, but also compete with their peers in the global marketplace"*. Superintendent Jelinski of the North Lakeland (Elementary &

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<sup>13</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>14</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>15</sup> Emphasis added.

Middle) School District states, *“As schools move toward online ‘techbooks’ instead of textbooks and students can access helpful educational tools from a variety of devices, not having high-speed internet at home puts our students at a significant disadvantage compared to their peers. Living in a rural setting should not mean that families need to choose between location and accessibility”*.

#### **g. Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas**

This proposed project will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area. Combined with our RDOF commitments, if awarded, this project would serve what we believe are all the remaining unserved or underserved households and businesses in the Town of Presque Isle.

### **III. Additional information supporting the application**

#### **a. Charter’s History and Experience**

Across the nation and in Wisconsin, Charter is a leading connectivity company providing superior products and services through its Spectrum brand of services and investing in the infrastructure, technology, and people powering the future. Charter is at the intersection of technology and entertainment, facilitating communications that connect more than 32 million residential and business customers in 41 states. Charter’s commitment to serving customers and exceeding their expectations is the bedrock of Spectrum’s business strategy and is the philosophy that guides its 93,000+ employees (that includes the approximately 3,600 employees who call Wisconsin home).

Nationally, Charter is the second largest broadband provider. The company has achieved growth through innovation and acquisitions of cable properties, including completing transactions with Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks. U.S. News and World Report recently named Spectrum Internet as the **“Best Internet Service Provider for Rural Areas.”**<sup>16</sup> Charter’s commitment to service quality has resulted in Multichannel News naming its Spectrum brand as **Operator of the Year for 2020**, CableFax naming us **“2021 MSO of the Year,”**<sup>17</sup> and CNET naming Spectrum the **“Best Cable Internet Provider”** for 2022.<sup>18</sup> Spectrum’s unparalleled commitment to service quality was especially evident in response to the pandemic. Charter’s network continued to perform well despite higher levels of peak bandwidth usage. And Charter accomplished all this while making adjustments to how and where we worked in response to COVID protocols.

Charter has invested nearly \$40 billion in infrastructure and technology over the last five years as part of its long-term commitment to expanding broadband access across urban, suburban and rural areas to connect more Americans. From 2018-2020 alone, Charter extended its network to reach an additional 2.5 million new homes and businesses, about a third in rural areas. Charter has recently announced a \$5 billion dollar initiative through RDOF to connect more than a million currently-unserved, mostly rural families and small businesses to reliable broadband service with speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, including adding significant resources to its construction department focused solely on adding nearly 115,000 miles of new network infrastructure to its more than 750,000 existing miles. Charter also plans

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<sup>16</sup> U.S. News and World Report, *Best Internet Providers for Rural Areas* (July 8, 2021), <https://www.usnews.com/360-reviews/internet-providers/best-rural>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.cablefax.com/event/2021-cablefax-top-ops>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.cnet.com/home/internet/best-cable-internet/>

to hire more than 2,000 employees and contractors to support the expansion nationwide. Wisconsin is the state where Charter received its largest RDOF award.

Charter will use the same network deployment and operational procedures in the Project Area that are currently successfully employed across the country. These practices include documented and thoroughly tested methods of managing network performance, managing service issues at a network or customer level, and coordinating change management with minimal or no disruption to customers. All of Charter's services are delivered over its state-of-the-art network and Charter backs them up with professional customer service and support from local technicians. Charter is dedicated to bringing its clients innovative, reliable services, and responsible care.

In Wisconsin, Charter (and its predecessor companies) have been providing broadband internet service for decades. Charter currently serves over 800 communities in Wisconsin, and provides broadband internet, video and voice service to more than 1.5 million customers, operating more than 40,000 miles of plant. In 2021 Charter began its commitment to build more than 140,000 new, unserved locations in Wisconsin through RDOF. More than \$668 million will be invested in Wisconsin, which includes an expected private investment of approximately \$500 million by Charter and \$168 million in support won by Charter in the FCC's RDOF auction. For this Project, Charter will be able to draw on the experience and capabilities of its regional and local personnel building and maintaining broadband infrastructure in all of these efforts.

As stated above, Charter has extensive experience building new network across 41 states every year, including deployment of its network into unserved rural areas, is well informed and practiced in adhering to required permitting processes and laws, and has well-established procedures to ensure that its networks are always constructed consistent with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Charter's construction project management system, called PRISM, contains an exhaustive guided workflow to manage all aspects of the construction process, including all necessary federal, state, and/or local governmental permits and approvals. The PRISM permit module enforces strict adherence to permitting rules, ensuring that steps in construction do not proceed without verified and approved permit documentation present in the system. Training is conducted frequently by a dedicated training group in Charter's Field Engineering support organization to ensure Charter's Construction Coordinators are well versed on the business processes and systemic solutions that projects are managed effectively and efficiently.

### **Prior broadband expansion projects**

Charter recognizes the importance of extending broadband service to unserved and underserved rural Wisconsin. Since 2014, Charter has actively participated in the Wisconsin Public Service Commission State Broadband Grant Program and has received 17 broadband grant awards. Twelve of these grant projects have been completed and of the remaining five, one is expected to be completed in the spring of 2022 and the remaining four are expected to be completed by December 31, 2024. Through these public-private projects, thousands of previously unserved and underserved residents now have access to broadband.

The below chart provides a list of our successful public/private broadband expansion efforts in Wisconsin since 2018.

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

Area	County	Community	Residential and Business Locations added	Activation date	Technology Used	Grant or Full Spectrum Investment
Pardeeville	Columbia	Village of Pardeeville	1045	Jun 2018	Hybrid Fiber Coax	Full Spectrum Investment
Dunn	Dane	Town of Dunn	117	Jun 2018	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Fall River	Columbia	Village of Fall River	780	Mar 2019	Hybrid Fiber Coax	Full Spectrum Investment
King	Lincoln	Town of King	323	Jan 2020	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Monticello	Green	Village of Monticello	567	Feb 2020	Hybrid Fiber Coax	Full Spectrum Investment
Orfordville & Footville	Rock	Villages of Orfordville & Footville	843	July 2020	Hybrid Fiber Coax	Full Spectrum Investment
Menominee	Menominee	Menominee Tribe	210	Dec 2020	FTTP	CARES Act Grant
Walter Dr - Woodruff	Oneida	Town of Woodruff	68	Dec 2020	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Anson	Chippewa	Town of Anson	57	Dec 2020	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Aedan Egan-Belgium	Ozaukee	Village of Belgium	19	Feb 2021	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Strawberry Glen – Jackson	Washington	Town of Jackson	46	Feb 2021	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Fairwater – Ripon	Fond du Lac	Town of Ripon	185	May 2021	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Lake Michigan Dr – Sturgeon Bay	Door	Sturgeon Bay	134	Jun 2021	FTTP	State BB Grant
Marquette	Green Lake	Village of Marquette	164	Aug 2021	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Randolph	Columbia	Village of Randolph	837	Oct 2021	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Lyons	Walworth	Town of Lyons	53	Nov 2021	Hybrid Fiber Coax	State BB Grant
Menominee Phase 2	Menominee	Menominee Tribe	26	Dec 2021	FTTP	CARES Act Grant

**PROJECTS IN PROGRESS**

Area	County	Community	Residential and Business Locations added	Deadline to complete	Technology Used	Grant or Full Spectrum Investment
Eagle River – Silver Lake, Rangeline & Deerskin	Vilas	Towns of Washington & Lincoln	705	Summer 2022	FTTP	State BB Grant
Racine	Racine County	Countywide	2000	December 31, 2024	FTTP	State BB Grant
Kenosha	Kenosha County	Countywide	918	December 31, 2024	FTTP	State BB Grant
Walworth	Walworth County	Countywide	1648	December 31, 2024	FTTP	State BB Grant
Town of Janesville	Rock	Town of Janesville	39	December 31, 2024	FTTP	State BB Grant

**b. A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.**

Charter will not build to any existing locations already served by Charter. Moreover, all of the locations proposed for the Project are either “unserved” or “underserved” as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.504, so the Project does not duplicate any other provider’s existing infrastructure in any “served” area.

**c. A description of an applicant’s financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project.**

Charter’s proposed Project budget includes only a limited set of Charter’s estimated direct, verifiable costs of construction. These consist of estimated material costs; direct contractor labor to carry out design, make-ready, and construction work; and licensing/permitting expenses. Indirect costs and certain other direct costs associated with the effort—such as the contributions by Charter’s internal employees on project design, supervision, and management—will be absorbed by Charter as part of its regular operations.

Once constructed, the State can also have a high degree of comfort that the Project will be sustainable. The network will also be backed and operated by Charter, the nation’s second-largest broadband provider with extensive experience owning, operating, maintaining, and upgrading broadband networks, as well as well-recognized financial stability. Charter has substantial cash flow, revolver capacity, and access to the capital markets. Charter’s financial resources and recognized, investment-backed commitment to rural America provide reassurance that Charter will be able to carry out the terms of any grant and continue to operate the system going forward.

Charter Communications, Inc., the company behind the customer-facing brand of Spectrum, is a Fortune 70 company with a market capitalization near \$100 billion. All portions of the project to be funded by Charter will be funded from the company’s general construction budget. Full copies of Charter’s most recent financials can be accessed here:

- Annual Report to Shareholders: <https://ir.charter.com/financial-information/annual-reports>



- SEC Filings: <https://ir.charter.com/financial-information/sec-filings>
- Annual Form 10-K for year ended December 31, 2021: <https://ir.charter.com/static-files/63606f63-1b11-4d60-91a0-5395f1552592>

Charter funds its construction projects using a centralized holding company planning model. For the proposed Project, Charter will aggregate needs and accumulate funds at the holding company level using a mix of available funding pools, including ongoing business free cash flow, existing credit lines, and new bond issuances, which could include high yield or investment grade bonds similar to those in our debt structure today. Our goal is to mix these resources as efficiently as possible. We continually evaluate our collective funding need and utilize funding mechanisms based on what is currently most advantageous for Charter. Our centralized funding entities will then disperse funds to the Charter affiliate participating in the Project to fund the Project on an as needed basis.

Charter has more than adequate cash flow to meet all Project obligations, including both initial construction and ongoing operation of the proposed network. Charter's free cash flow generally reflects the cash flow from our business that is available for investment, debt repayment, or for distribution to our shareholders in a given year. Free cash flow has already been reduced for our expected interest payments and normal capital expenditures. Charter's free cash flow in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 was \$2.2b, \$4.6b, \$7.1b, and \$8.7b, respectively. Collectively, our free cash flow, revolver capacity, and access to capital markets reflect more than sufficient resources to fund the proposed Project. In addition, consensus estimates of our ongoing free cash flow would be more than sufficient to fund our debt maturity obligations as they come due, along with allowing us to continue to operate our business, including the build-out systems.

Included in Exhibit A are 47 documents received in support of the Project.



March 17, 2022

Ms. Steffany Powell Coker  
Secretary to the Commission  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
North Tower - 6th Floor  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

RE: FY 2022 BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Coker:

In response to The Fiscal Year 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant Cycle in collaboration with Spectrum Mid-America, LLC, by its manager, Charter Communications Inc. Charter ("Spectrum" or "Charter") hereby submits the enclosed Application, which we believe appropriately recognizes the urgency of the request and sets forth a straight-forward implementable plan to connect the most unserved and underserved homes utilizing the available funding.

**Our proposal, if accepted, will deliver robust high speed internet with up to 1 gigabit per second ("Gbps") download and 500 megabits per second ("Mbps") upload speeds, to 1,095 locations identified in Spectrum's Application in the Town of Presque Isle, using fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP EPON) technology.**

Charter has invested nearly \$40 billion in infrastructure and technology nationally over the last five years as part of its long-term commitment to expanding broadband access across urban, suburban and rural areas to connect more Americans. In 2021, Charter extended its network to reach an additional 1.1 million new homes and businesses across the country, including an additional 41,000 in Wisconsin.

Backed by more than 3,591 local employees, \$670 Million in capital investment in Wisconsin over the last two years, and a robust gigabit capable network, we are uniquely positioned to meet your objectives in a more efficient and meaningful way than any other applicant.

Charter recognizes the urgent need for extending access to reliable broadband to all its residents. Charter, through its Spectrum brand of companies, currently serves approximately 1.5 million customers in Wisconsin, and more than 32 million customers nationwide. Over an advanced communications network, the company offers a full range of state-of-the-art residential and business services including Spectrum Internet, TV, Mobile and Voice.

Our continued commitment to providing broadband in the State is further evidenced by our 2021 announcement to build more than 140,000 unserved locations in Wisconsin through the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") auction. More than \$668 million will be invested in Wisconsin, which includes an expected private investment of approximately \$500 million by Charter and \$168 million in support won by Charter in the FCC's RDOF auction. In Vilas County we will be building 7,449 RDOF locations.

Each day that passes without connectivity increases the gap between those who have broadband and those who do not. We believe this proposal echoes the State's strong desire to bring connectivity to unserved and underserved residents of the state. Charter is excited for the opportunity to work with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to bring continued major investment of broadband expansion in the State.

Please find the detail of our response enclosed. Again, we are pleased to be considered for such an important and ambitious project. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR', with a stylized, flowing script.

Adam Raschka,  
Regional Senior Director, Government Affairs



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Steffany Powell Coker  
Secretary to the Commission  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
North Tower, 6th Floor  
Hill Farms State Office Building  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

March 10, 2022

Ms. Powell Coker,

Please accept this letter of support for Charter Communications' 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant application for the Town of Presque Isle. This project aims to install fiber-to-home broadband for 1,095 homes and businesses, with a \$6,972,272 build cost overall. Broadband expansion is critical to the Northwoods, and we strongly believe they would make excellent use of the grant funding.

This grant will level the playing field and help provide much needed broadband access to Northwoods businesses, homes, and schools. Broadband expansion will attract new businesses, enhance tourism experiences, promote student educational opportunities, and address health and safety issues in remote areas.

Many residents in the Northwoods continue to rely on dial-up connections in their homes and businesses. Our offices have heard from several concerned parents and college students regarding their inability to effectively complete online homework assignments due to their internet connectivity. This places students in the Northwoods at a distinct disadvantage.

The Broadband Expansion Grant is an important step towards leveling the field and increasing educational and economic development in the Town of Presque Isle. We are confident that Charter Communications will prove to be an excellent partner in the implementation of the project.

Sincerely,

Representative Rob Swearingen  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Wisconsin State Assembly

Senator Mary Felzkowski  
12<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Wisconsin State Senate

# Town of Presque Isle

PO Box 130

John MacLean, Chairman  
Cathy Weber, Supervisor  
Carl Wolter, Supervisor

Presque Isle, WI 54557

phone: 715-686-2473

fax: 715-686-2588

[www.piwi.us](http://www.piwi.us)

March 11, 2022

Lorine Walters, Clerk  
Kathy Stikiewitz, Treasurer  
Patrick Eesley, Constable

Steffany Powell Coker  
Secretary to the Commission  
Public Service Commission  
North Tower, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hill Farms State Office Building  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am writing today to express our Town Board's support of Charter Communications (Charter) and Town of Presque Isle's joint application for a broadband expansion grant for a project within our Town. Attached you will find a copy of the formal resolution approved by the Presque Isle Town Board that appropriates \$1,200,000 toward the project cost. This direct financial commitment by the Town Board demonstrates the importance of the project to us and signifies our commitment to partnering with Charter on expanding broadband access in our Town.

Presque Isle is pleased to partner with Charter, particularly in light of the financial commitment offered by Charter to fund 55.7% of the project that will reach an estimated 1095 unserved and underserved locations within the Town.

The project will be a joint effort between Presque Isle and Charter, with Charter acting as lead applicant and assuming responsibility for the construction and operation of the proposed network. Funds requested in this application will be used solely for the purpose of constructing and installing broadband infrastructure throughout the designated grant area.

In support of Charter's efforts to complete the project, to the extent it is within the Town's scope of authority, Presque Isle will work with and assist Charter in removing obstacles that arise outside of Charter's control, such as local permitting issues, pole attachments, and access to rights-of-way and easements. This assistance is in the spirit of our "Broadband Forward" certification. The Town will also work to keep the public engaged through regular Town Board and other public forum updates and additional information made available through a dedicated link on the Town's website. Further, the Town will work with Charter on rollout planning to make sure that the "on-boarding" process for our residents is as simple as possible.

This project is very important to the people of Presque Isle and will have substantial impact on this community. Extending broadband service to the project area will provide economic development benefits for small businesses working hard to stay in operation despite the COVID-19 pandemic, support for remote and work from home employees, and support for those individuals who could re-enter the



## Wisconsin's Last Wilderness

workforce if they could resolve childcare issues by working remotely. Presque Isle will see similar benefits of broadband expansion through improved access to remote learning within the affected school districts and expansion of tele-health opportunities for our residents especially those that are elderly with limited mobility. Our schools, North Lakeland Elementary and Lakeland Union High School, as well as our major region healthcare provider, Marshfield Clinic, have indicated their full support of the project.

We are committed to partnering with Charter to help ensure that they can accomplish a project of this size within the time constraints required by the grant award. We look forward to working with Charter to deliver greater broadband access in Presque Isle and we respectfully request that the Public Service Commission grant the award to continue the important work of expanding broadband access in our Town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John MacLean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "M".

John MacLean N  
Town Chairman

Resolution 2022-2  
Town of Presque Isle  
Broadband Expansion Grant Application

WHEREAS, the Town of Presque Isle has conducted multiple public information meetings during 2021 and 2022 concerning the expansion of highspeed broadband within the Town of Presque Isle; and

WHEREAS, responses to a Town-wide survey in 2018 and a subsequent Town-wide information mailing in late 2021 confirmed strong support among the community for improved Broadband services for the Town;

WHEREAS, an advisory vote of the citizens of the Town of Presque Isle was held on February 24, 2022, and a majority of the citizens voted in favor of the Town of Presque Isle's commitment of funding for the 2022 Highspeed Broadband Expansion Project; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Presque Isle became certified as a Broadband Forward! Community on September 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Presque Isle recognizes the importance of providing Highspeed Broadband access to all areas of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Presque Isle understands that Highspeed Broadband service will diversify the Town's economy, offer a new home to businesses dependent on Highspeed Broadband, provide remote work options for full time and seasonal residents and visitors, give visitors a reason to stay longer and spend more in the Town, provide access to tele-health services of both local and national providers, provide better options for remote learning for students of all ages, facilitate the growth of local job opportunities for current and future residents and position the Town of Presque Isle for a future where commerce, communications, entertainment and so many facets of life will involve internet access; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Presque Isle desires to file an application for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission in connection with the 2022 Presque Isle Highspeed Broadband Expansion Project herein described; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Presque Isle desires to enter into a Public-Private Partnership with Charter Communications in order to accomplish the 2022 Presque Isle Highspeed Broadband Expansion Project herein described; and


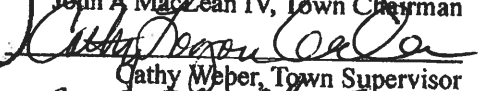

WHEREAS, the 2022 Presque Isle Highspeed Broadband Expansion Project herein described contemplates the following use of funds:

Total Project Cost	Town of Presque Isle Contribution (not to exceed)	Charter Communications Contribution	PSC Grant
\$6,972,272	\$1,200,000	\$3,881,775	\$1,890,497

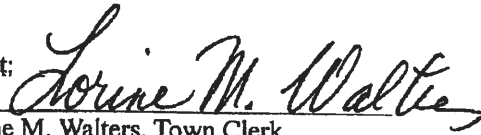
WHEREAS, the Town of Presque Isle desires to commit to the funding of the Presque Isle Highspeed Broadband Expansion Project herein described;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Presque Isle commits an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 as a contribution to the financing of the 2022 Presque Isle Highspeed Broadband Expansion Project as described herein.

ADOPTED this 11th day of March, 2022 by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain.

  
John A. MacLean IV, Town Chairman  
  
Cathy Weber, Town Supervisor  
  
Carl Wolter, Town Supervisor

Attest:

  
Lorine M. Walters, Town Clerk



March 17, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
Broadband Grant Office  
Attn: Steffany Powell Coker  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
North Tower-6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

RE: Charter/Presque Isle Wisconsin PSC Broadband Grant Application  
Access to Additional Letters of Support

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am writing you in connection with the Charter Communications/Town of Presque Isle PSC Broadband grant application. I am a Co-Chair of the Broadband Committee of the Town of Presque Isle. The purpose of this letter is to offer the Commission access to additional letters of support not specifically presented in the grant application.

In demonstration of community support and commitment for this project, the Town has received over 100 letters and emails of support from residents, businesses, and other stakeholders anxious for better broadband service in Presque Isle, as of this writing. In addition, a total of \$26,000 in pledges accompanied 28 of these letters of support to help the Town meet its financial commitment to the project should Charter be awarded a grant.

Although a selection of these letters was included in Charter's grant application, most did not appear due to the 40-page limitation. We believe many of these letters strongly support our story and present very compelling reasons why enhanced broadband is needed in Presque Isle. We believe these letters could be useful to the Commission when evaluating Charter's Grant application.

We would like to make a digital file of all letters of support we have received available to you upon request. To obtain the file please contact me via email at [davebogan98@gmail.com](mailto:davebogan98@gmail.com).

Please feel free to call me at 715-385-2221 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bogan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Bogan  
Co-Chair—Town of Presque Isle Broadband Committee





**Marshfield Clinic  
Health System**

**Marshfield Medical Center**  
1000 North Oak Avenue  
Marshfield, WI 54449

March 1, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707-9100

Re: Letter of Support/Commitment for the Town of Presque Isle Broadband Expansion Grant proposal

Marshfield Clinic is an integrated health system located in Marshfield, WI serving central, north-central and north-western Wisconsin, this includes patients who reside in Vilas County. We are a Mission, Vision and Value's driven organization that strives to "Enrich the Lives of those we serve". MCHS has used Telehealth to reach unserved and underserved populations throughout Wisconsin since 1997.

MCHS is supportive of the efforts of this proposed project by the town of Presque Isle offer this letter of support and commitment for their grant application. Further, Marshfield Clinic Health System will contribute \$10,000 to the Town of Presque Isle toward this project if it is awarded grant funds by the Public Service Commission. This is a significant project that impacts over 1,100 homes and businesses that did not receive broadband expansion with FCC RRDOF funds.

Over the course of the last 6 years, MCHS has worked closely with the communities we serve in an effort to help them prepare for a time in which more healthcare can be delivered using technology directly into the patient's home. The COVID-19 Pandemic accelerated the move to delivering care via telehealth much more quickly than expected. However, Telehealth was able to respond quickly and offer continued access to healthcare services by our patients throughout the Pandemic. Since March of 2020, MCHS has completed over 400,000 telehealth encounters that were not permissible prior to the Pandemic. Despite the rapid advancement of Telehealth, access to broadband internet services continue to be our patient's top barrier in accessing these services.

Looking forward to a Post-COVID world, Telehealth is not going away. Federal legislation is expected to make these new flexibilities to use telehealth permanent. Telehealth visits allow patients better access to healthcare without the need to travel or miss work or school. This allows patients to more conveniently maintain their chronic illness appointments, have a visit with their Primary Care Doctor or complete needed follow-up care. A number of new services are likely to join the array of telehealth services already offered by health systems across the country. A patient's access to broadband at home will be a determining factor in which services they can consume and which they cannot. MCHS will be at the forefront of offering these new care modalities.

Collaborative efforts are needed to expand broadband across Wisconsin and MCHS is proud to support this Broadband expansion project and we urge the Public Service Commission to fund this project.

Sincerely,

Susan Turney MD, MS, FACP, FACMPE  
CEO

2/18/2022

To Whom it May Concern,

As a member of the town board of Presque Isle, I am very concerned with the overall health of our community in regard to Broadband access. Some of our residents have no internet, while others have inadequate internet. I believe that broadband access will lead to better economic outcomes, stronger education of children and adults, and even improved health outcomes.

Without the help of the PSC and Federal RDOF grants, our small community would never be able to upgrade to broadband. Our town has been very actively pursuing Broadband access for several years and genuinely hopes to see this dream become a reality. For these reasons, I would like to pledge \$500.00 to help our town toward its goal of improved Broadband.

Sincerely,

Cathy Logan Weber, Town Supervisor

Ms. Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707-9100

Dr. Ms. Nieto,

Wolter Sand, Gravel, and Excavating in Presque Isle would like to donate \$500.00 towards the Presque Isle Broad band project. I've been in business over 50 years and have seen a lot of changes in this small community. We have lost many businesses over the years, as you need people to live and stay longer in the area, especially the younger generation.

Currently Presque Isle has attracted many young business owners in Presque Isle in the past five + years. We want to attract more as we feel our area is great for raising families. Young people, such as our son who is relocating to Presque Isle with his family, need to have high-speed internet to work and support their families in this beautiful part of the state. Health care (Telehealth), optimal Emergency Services, and being able to stay in touch with the outside world is very important to our elderly population.

Tourism, such as snowmobiling, fishing, water sports- to name a few- is a large part of our economy. These folks could remain longer in our area if faster and more reliable internet service is available.

Please consider Charter-Spectrum for a Spring 2022 grant to enhance Presque Isle's internet. Our Broad Band committee has done an excellent job of doing the necessary research and work to get our community on board with this project. Charter-Spectrum is willing to donate to this project as well. As a designated Broad band Forward community, we would be honored and very excited to take advantage of this great opportunity for Presque Isle.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Carl F. Wolter  
Presque Isle Town Board Supervisor



## **NORTH LAKELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Serving the Townships of: Boulder Junction, Land O' Lakes,  
Manitowish Waters, Presque Isle & Winchester*

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**715-543-8417 ~ 715-543-8868 (fax)**

**[www.northlakelandschool.com](http://www.northlakelandschool.com)**



March 2, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
North Tower, 6th Floor  
Hill Farms State Office Building  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: **Broadband Expansion Grant – Presque Isle, Wisconsin**

Dear PSC Representative:

I am sending this letter supporting Presque Isle's grant application for Highspeed Broadband. Highspeed Broadband through fiber to the premises (FTTP) is essential to Presque Isle.

Presque Isle must implement a Highspeed Broadband service to ensure its viability for future generations. Because of the dramatic shift in today's economy, Highspeed Broadband service is essential and will diversify Presque Isle's economy by offering a new home for high-tech businesses, entrepreneurs, and young families. In addition, it will provide services for existing full and part-time residents and tourists including: Tele-Education, Tele-Health, Internet TV, and new and yet-to-be-invented services.

As the local school superintendent, I can't express how important it is for students to have access to high-speed internet where they live. As schools move towards online "techbooks" instead of textbooks and students can access helpful educational tools from a variety of devices, not having high-speed internet at home puts our students at a significant disadvantage compared to their peers. Living in a rural setting should not mean that families need to choose between location and accessibility. As a school, we are making the conscious choice not to send online homework opportunities home as many students can't access high-speed internet at their residents. Broadband accessibility is a vital equity issue not only in our school district but also in the state. All students should have the opportunity to access high-speed internet where they live!

In the fall of 2019 the Town chartered the Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup (now a Town Committee) to investigate options to improve access to the internet. Since then, the Workgroup has reviewed technical solutions like fixed wireless, satellite-based access, and fiber to the

home options. They have met with both local and national service providers, and researched funding options – including state and federal grant programs -- to pay for a future project. The Town is now in the final stages of approving a Town-wide Broadband Improvement initiative and selecting the Internet Service Provider to partner with to complete the work and to seek critical Public Service Commission (PSC) grant funding needed to make the goal of improving Broadband access for everyone in our Town a reality.

In closing, it is essential that Presque Isle be given the opportunity to provide the residents, students, and businesses with the resources they need to be successful in a world where high-speed internet is a fundamental part of life, work, and society.

Sincerely,



Brent Jelinski  
Superintendent  
North Lakeland School District



# **LAKELAND UNION HIGH SCHOOL**

9573 State Hwy 70 • Minocqua, Wisconsin 54548-9000 • [www.luhs.k12.wi.us](http://www.luhs.k12.wi.us)

**Home  
of  
the  
Thunderbirds**

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Pamela Carroll  
Heidi Fink  
Ann Hunt  
Shari Nimsger  
Barb Peck  
Barry Seidel, Jr.  
Gary Smith  
Shawn Umland

**DISTRICT  
OFFICE**

715-356-5252 ext. 3480  
FAX 715-356-1892

**DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATOR**  
Claire Martin, Ed.D.

**HIGH SCHOOL  
OFFICE**

715-356-5252  
FAX 715-358-8538

**PRINCIPAL**  
Chad Gauerke

**ASSOCIATE  
PRINCIPAL**  
Levi Massey

**DIRECTOR OF  
PUPIL SERVICES/  
SPECIAL ED.**  
Rebecca Jablonski

**ACTIVITIES  
DIRECTOR**  
Emily Mallek

February 22, 2022

Presque Isle Broadband Committee  
c/o Presque Isle EDC  
8518 Palmer Road  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Re: Letter of Support for Town of Presque Isle Broadband Improvement Initiative and  
Public Service Commission Grant Funding

Dear Chairman MacLean,

I am writing in support of the Presque Isle Public Service Commission grant application to fund the Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup's Broadband Improvement Initiative. This initiative is key to improving broadband access and corresponding educational opportunities for students who we serve and who live in the town of Presque Isle. As you may know, Lakeland Union High School's attendance area includes Presque Isle students that are in grades 9-12.

Having robust broadband throughout the Lakeland Union High School District is a significant factor in enabling us to provide 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills to our students. The Broadband Improvement Initiative is in alignment with our mission and vision statements to meet our students' needs.

Without access to quality, reliable internet services Wisconsin's rural students will continue to be left behind in the changing economy. Please give your full consideration to this important initiative and give the Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup the opportunity to fulfill our goal of developing students who can not only be well prepared, but also compete with their peers in the global marketplace.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Claire Martin  
Interim District Administrator  
Lakeland Union High School District

Lakeland Union High School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap

**Margaret V. Johnson**

Attorney At Law

Box 156  
Presque Isle, WI 54557  
715-499-7680 (Mobile)  
715-686-2481 (Office)

February 28, 2022

Presque Isle Broadband Committee  
c/o Presque EDC  
8518 Palmer Road  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Via email to: [christinewolterpiwi@hotmail.com](mailto:christinewolterpiwi@hotmail.com)

Dear Members of the Broadband Committee:

I applaud the significant and vital work you are doing to facilitate high-speed, high capacity, affordable broadband in the Township of Presque Isle.

Working as an Attorney and Realtor in the township for the past 40 years, I can document how crucial access to the internet has become for both those professions. A small community such as Presque Isle has virtually no chance of competing on a level playing field with more populated communities without dependable, speedy internet. Virtually 75% of the workload I experience as a realtor and attorney involves use of some facet of the internet. Client and customer contact, research, filing electronic pleadings, electronic signatures, virtual property tours, and numerous other daily business demands utilize the broadband network. /With effective internet the potential of our population, young and old, is unlimited; without it the future of the next generation is stymied and relegated to a second -class economy and loss of the intellectual talent of our youth.)

Comprehensive planning for our township over the past 20 years has identified the need for broadband access as a major – if not THE major – need to preserve and enhance the viability of Presque Isle township. Population growth and economic development is not possible without the lack of reliable broadband. Those areas of our township where this does not exist are doomed to remain wastelands. One of the first inquiries of potential residents is the quality of broadband service in a particular location. I can document large numbers of sales that have been lost to inadequate broadband service. The need is particularly important to potential full- time residents seeking to work remotely but it is also of utmost importance to the quality of life available to older residents who require on-line access to health, communication and entertainment services.

This PSC grant is essential for an area without strong economic resources. It will be the lifeline to a township whose future existence in this on-line world is in jeopardy.

Very truly yours,

Margaret V. Johnson





VILAS COUNTY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

involve invest innovate

PO Box 1621  
521 E. Wall Street  
Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521  
715.337.0061 | vilascounty.edc.org

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Mike Duening  
Jonathan Sharp

February 10, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707-9100

Re: Letter of Support for Charter Communications Presque Isle Broadband  
Expansion Grant Proposal

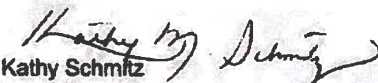
Dear Ms. Nieto,

We are writing in support of Charter Communications in their application for the 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant funding for their Presque Isle project. The area covered in this project has a significant concentration of living units and is very underserved by broadband.

Having little "traditional" industry, and an economy heavily dependent on tourism, Vilas County is working proactively to promote ourselves not only as a premier tourist destination, but as a premier destination to live and work year-round. Attracting entrepreneurs, remote workers and expanding businesses to the Northwoods is key to Vilas County's future economic development. Having robust broadband throughout the county is of course, the foundation that is needed to be successful in this and Charter Communications project in Presque Isle is a key component to realizing Vilas County's vision.

Without access to quality, reliable internet services Wisconsin's rural businesses and communities will continue to be left behind in the changing economy. Please give your full consideration to this important project and give Charter Communications the opportunity to fulfill our goal of developing a fully connected Vilas County. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy Schmitz  
Executive Director



**February 28, 2022**

**Ms. Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator**

**Wisconsin Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

**4822 Madison Yards Way**

**Madison, WI 53707-9100**

Dear Ms. Nieto,

On behalf of Charter-Spectrum, the Presque Isle Broad band committee and town leadership, I'm writing to update you on the due diligence that the Presque Isle broad band work group (now a committee) has been putting forth for the past two years to obtain broad band for our town. We understand that your committee will be rewarding the grants monies this spring of 2022.

A survey was sent out to the Presque Isle taxpayers in 2017 and overwhelmingly they replied that the town needed high-speed internet to accomplish their everyday and work-life chores. As a result of that survey a "work-group" was commissioned by the Presque Isle Town Board to explore what our options were.

Several hard-working Broad band work group members set out to find out what was needed to get high-speed internet to Presque Isle. The Economic Development Committee was part of that work group. In January 2021, Charter-Spectrum was awarded RDOF monies to "build out" only certain areas of Presque Isle. Since Presque Isle is indeed an "underserved" community per the federal standards, we set out to find out how we could get broad band to the entire community. Early on Charter-Spectrum indicated some interest in doing this. Lumen (CenturyLink) was also interested. After more than a year of investigation, negotiations, meetings, etc., Charter-Spectrum provided us with a project proposal that the town could sell to the taxpayers. We are very pleased with how this proposed project has developed and with your assistance of awarding Charter-Spectrum a grant toward our project, we'll be able to see it to fruition.

Everyone is very hopeful about the possibility of high-speed internet in our area to keep us viable economically. We are a small town with young business owners and a lot of potential to grow and attract more businesses and families. We also have an elderly population that has medical needs and likes to keep in contact with family via the internet. We currently have the support of over 100 + letters from taxpayers and local supporters who are very excited about this project.

The Presque Isle Economic Development Committee and EDC thanks you for considering Charter-Spectrum as a recipient of a PSC Broad band grant award for the Spring of 2022!

Sincerely,

Christine A. Wolter, Secretary

Presque Isle EDC

Shaw Building and Design Inc. and

Shaw Builders Inc.

7998 Powderhorn Road

Presque Ilse, WI

March 2, 2022

Presque Ilse Broadband Committee:

I own with my husband 2 businesses that we are trying to establish within our community.

We represent the construction industry with residential construction of homes or remodeling of homes in our area. Currently we are unable to download a blueprint or even download a contract at our current location.

I cannot log into my office in Madison to do any kind of work, payroll, contracts or sometimes even trying to view an email attachment.

By improving our speeds, we will better be able to serve our community with addition construction information and be able to help those who either want to build a new home or business or remodel an existing home or business in the area thus bringing more revenue into the are for everyone.

We do have clients in the area, and we must go elsewhere to be able to take care of our needs to continue to expand our business in the north woods.

If I can further assist you in any other way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Vice President and Co-Owner Of

Shaw Building and Design, Inc.

Shaw Builders, Inc.

Dawn Shaw

[dawn@shawbuilders.com](mailto:dawn@shawbuilders.com)

608-206-3296

C.A.T. Construction P.O. Box 81  
Presque Isle, WI 54557-0081  
715-686-2565  
715-686-2802 FAX



March 4, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707-9100

Re: Letter of Support for Charter/Spectrum Communications Joint Broadband Proposal with the Town of Presque Isle, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of Charter/Spectrum Communications application for the 2022 Public Service Grant to complete the proposed project to bring broadband service to the Presque Isle community.

I own and operate a business in the Town of Presque. In today's digital world, it is a necessity that we have access to dependable, high speed internet service. I am fortunate to have internet service at my location but most in our rural community do not. In order to grow and attract new businesses, it is vitally important that broadband service be available throughout our entire community. We can become more than a vacation destination if relocating families are able to work remotely and entrepreneurs can consider starting a new business in our area. I believe this proposal is key to growing our work force, keeping our young people from leaving the area for better opportunities and achieving our economic goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kim Tassi'.

Kim Tassi

S.L.

Shelly Knaack, Director  
Presque Isle Community Library  
8306 School Loop Road  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

02-18-2022

Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup  
c/o Presque Isle EDC  
8518 Palmer Rd  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Dear Ms. Wolter,

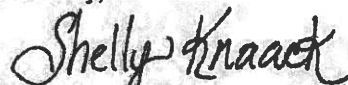
I am writing this letter in support of the Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup. I welcome and approve of the town's efforts to improve our internet service. Today, broadband internet is truly part of infrastructure. Our town, in order to serve its community members, current and future, has recognized the need for broadband.

As the library director in Presque Isle, I have received feedback from patrons that internet at their homes has slow speed or is non-existent. Since high speed internet is required in almost every aspect of communication, this adversely affects the way people are able to work and live in the community.

To keep our community viable and as a place for people to make their homes, do remote work or to visit, broadband internet service is essential. Remote learning for students has become increasingly more necessary. Our children deserve the opportunity to learn remotely as many of their peers in surrounding towns do.

I wholeheartedly support broadband internet for Presque Isle, Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Shelly Knaack, Director  
Presque Isle Community Library



**Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce**  
P.O. Box 135  
Presque Isle, WI  
(715) 686-2910  
[chamber8305@gmail.com](mailto:chamber8305@gmail.com)

Ms. Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707-9100

**Rc: Letter of Support for Charter Communications Presque Isle Broadband Expansion Grand Proposal**

Dear Ms. Nieto,

We, at the Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce, are writing to you in support of Charter Communications for the application of the 2022 Broadband Expansion funding for the Presque Isle project. Presque Isle has been predominantly vastly underserved by broadband where this project would significantly benefit its current and prospective community members.

Presque Isle heavily relies on tourism with a "non-traditional" industry. Vilas County is working to promote ourselves, not only as a premier tourist destination, but as a premier destination to live and work year-round. This goal is looking to attract entrepreneurs, remote workers, and expand current businesses to the Northwoods. This goal holds the opportunity to boost Vilas County's future economic development by having a robust broadband, a key component in forwarding Vilas County's vision.

Lack of access to reliable and quality internet services could hinder the businesses and community members in Presque Isle with the ever-changing economy. Moving forward, please consider this critical project and provide Charter Communications the opportunity to fulfill Presque Isle's goal of developing a fully connected community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Kimberly Prott*

Executive Director  
Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce



Mar 2, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707-9100

Re: Letter of Support for Charter Communications Presque Isle Broadband Expansion Grant Proposal

Dear Ms. Nieto,

We are writing in support of Charter Communications in their application for the 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant funding for their Presque Isle project. We believe our area will greatly benefit from having broadband service available to businesses and patrons alike.

Businesses like ours rely heavily on internet access to complete regular transactions, to update our software, to communicate with the general public and to provide access to our customers. Broadband would be something that any business here would greatly benefit from.

We have been a meeting place for several local businesses that have relied on their access to our internet. It has helped our local newspaper, several local clubs and has served as a place for potential businesses to work. All of this has helped our business tremendously and would be attractive to any potential business considering Presque Isle as a home.

This project would open up more opportunities for current business and potential coming to this area. To miss this opportunity would be a detriment to our town's development and expansion.

We support this broadband expansion, urge you to give your full consideration to this important project for our community and to give Charter Communications the opportunity. We believe it will grow our community, which will greatly impact our business and others alike.

We would like to pledge \$500 towards this cause and we are very grateful for the 2 years of hard work that our Broadband Committee has put into the project for our community.

Sincerely,

Phil & Destinee Harris  
The Outpost in Presque Isle WI

February 28, 2022

To Whom it may Concern,

This letter is in support of the Charter Communications Presque Isle Broadband Expansion Grant Proposal.

My husband and I own Karsyn's Korner, which is the Gas/Convenience Store and the Do It Best Hardware store in Presque Isle.

We are well aware of how new infrastructure of Broadband will improve the living and working conditions in Presque Isle. A good example of good internet access is when the area school went to remote learning, but many families did not have adequate broadband to educate their children.

Owning a business which requires a lot of internet including, pay at the pump, ATM, credit card pin pads, Lottery, Wisconsin and Michigan DNR machines, etc. I can tell you first hand how important it is to have quality, reliable internet service.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Brenda and Kelly Dyre



February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Christine Wolter  
Presque Isle Broadband Committee  
c/o Presque EDC  
8518 Palmer Road  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Dear Christine,

I wanted to provide a short letter of support for the Broadband Grant Initiative that you have underway through the Town Board.

As a college professor, the increased internet speed that I would receive at my property in Presque Isle would provide me with a number of professional, as well as quality-of-life benefits.

Covid-19 has changed the way Colleges and Universities deliver education, and one of the most compelling and "here-to-stay" is online teaching and learning. However, the overall assumption in higher education is that every student (and every teacher) has access to high-speed internet, that can turn every home into a classroom.

Having the bandwidth to utilize the vast array of teaching platforms that currently exist, and will be developed in the future will allow me to teach classes and workshops from my property in Presque Isle. The ability to utilize video, chat, conferencing, and other learning management apps simultaneously, as I do on campus, will give me the ability to teach from my home in Presque Isle.

The increased bandwidth will also allow me to be the student, as I am required to continue my own learning to keep pace with my profession.

The ability to both facilitate online learning, and to participate in online learning will be a great benefit to all who live or visit Presque Isle when the grant is awarded and the infrastructure is expanded.

I thank you for your leadership in this grant application process.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Bergman  
Professor of Marketing  
Lewis University  
[bergmaro@lewisu.edu](mailto:bergmaro@lewisu.edu)

One University Parkway • Romeoville, IL 60446-2200  
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BAIRD

March 2, 2022

Christine Wolter  
Presque Isle Broadband Committee  
c/o Presque EDC  
8518 Palmer Road  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Dear Christine,

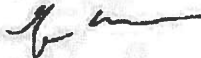
I wanted to provide a brief letter of support for the Broadband Grant initiative that you, the Presque Isle Broadband Committee, have underway through the Town Board.

As a financial professional working at Baird, I spend half of my week on remote video calls with clients, and all my time on data systems that require robust broadband access for data analysis, trading and reporting. All these activities require a sufficient broadband capability, without which I couldn't function.

As an adjunct professor of finance at Marquette University, I also teach courses remotely online. This, of course, also requires a sufficient broadband connection.

For these reasons I do not get to spend as much time at our place on Crab Lake. Anything you can do to secure better internet availability in the Presque Isle area, would be much appreciated. I thank you for your leadership in this grant application process and for the opportunity to provide my input.

Regards,



Christopher K. Merket, Ph.D., CFA  
Director  
Private Asset Management  
Robert W. Baird & Co.

Adjunct Professor of Finance  
Marquette University

Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated  
111 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-5391  
Main 414 655 1500  
Toll Free 800 990 1111  
rwibaird.com





**Vilas County Board of Supervisors**

330 Court Street • Eagle River, WI 54521

715-479-3600 • Fax: 715-479-3605 • [www.vilascountywi.gov](http://www.vilascountywi.gov)

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March 1, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707-9100

Re: Letter of Support for Charter Communications Presque Isle Broadband Expansion Grant Proposal

Dear Ms. Nieto,

I am writing on behalf of Vilas County in support of Charter Communications in their application for the 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant funding for their Presque Isle project. The areas covered in this project have a significant concentration of living units and are very underserved by broadband. I will encourage the Vilas County Finance & Budget Committee and the County Board of Supervisors to take appropriate action during the 2023 budgeting process, to enable the County to participate financially in this initiative.

Having little "traditional" industry, and an economy heavily dependent on tourism, Vilas County is working proactively to promote ourselves not only as a premier tourist destination, but as a premier destination to live and work year-round. Attracting entrepreneurs, remote workers and expanding businesses to the Northwoods is key to Vilas County's future economic development. Having robust broadband throughout the county is of course, the foundation that is needed to be successful in this and Charter Communications project in Presque Isle is a key component to realizing Vilas County's vision.

Without access to quality, reliable internet services Wisconsin's rural businesses and communities will continue to be left behind in the changing economy. Please give your full consideration to this important project and give Charter Communications the opportunity to fulfill our goal of developing a fully connected Vilas County. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron De Bruyne".

Ron De Bruyne  
Chairman - Vilas County Board of Supervisors





WINEGAR POST 480 AMERICAN LEGION  
11662 County Hwy W  
PO BOX 178  
PRESQUE ISLE, WI 54557

S.L.

February 10, 2022

Presque Isle Broadband Committee  
c/o Christine Wolter, Presque Isle EDC  
8518 Palmer Road  
Presque Isle, WI 54557 or: christinewolterpiwi@hotmail.com

Dear Ms. Wolter,

As the Commander of Winegar Post 480 American Legion of Wisconsin, I find we need better access to high-speed internet for our members and our customers. We are a popular stop for visitors, hikers, bikers, snowmobilers and in the future, summer ATV traffic. All our guests demand this type of service, which we cannot provide at this time. We anticipate increasing our hours and building a new facility, but slow broadband will be a limiting factor in our decision.

Many of our elderly veterans cannot attend our meetings/services except by providing ZOOM which we cannot do. Our plans to provide health/social/meal services for our large elderly population of veterans and local residents is also limited and high-speed broadband will be a deciding factor on our future plans.

I welcome and approve of the town's effort to improve our internet service.

Sincerely yours,

John L. "Larry" Gorrilla, Commander

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E-Mail: gorrilla1011@gmail.com Telephone: 715-686-2517

Commander, John L. "Larry" Gorrilla, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Ed Fairbanks, Adjutant, Andrew Harris, Finance, Carl Schoenecker  
A copy of the most recent annual return and tax exemption letter is available by writing to Post 480. Printing charges may be applied.  
Post 480 EIN number: 39-1359197



Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup  
c/o Presque Isle EDC  
8518 Palmer Rd  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Dear Ms. Wolter,

As a media organization providing news and information to residents in Presque Isle, we find the need for reliable internet essential for a well-informed public.

As media evolves and individuals are dependent on their phones and computers for entertainment, to hear the latest news, find out about community events and remain updated on critical information, the need for dependable internet has never been greater.

With the loss of daily local newspapers and a radio in every room of the house, people are looking for untraditional sources for their news and information. WXPR has made significant investments to expand our services to a digital platform and remain a relevant resource for those in the area, however reliable internet is needed to utilize those services.

On behalf of WXPR Public Radio, I welcome and support the town of Presque Isle's effort to improve internet service. A healthy democratic society starts with a well-informed public.

Jessie Dick

General Manager- President  
White Pine Community Broadcasting- WXPR Public Radio

2/18/2022

To Whom it May Concern,

As a member of the town board of Presque Isle, I am very concerned with the overall health of our community in regard to Broadband access. Some of our residents have no internet, while others have inadequate internet. I believe that broadband access will lead to better economic outcomes, stronger education of children and adults, and even improved health outcomes.

Without the help of the PSC and Federal RDOF grants, our small community would never be able to upgrade to broadband. Our town has been very actively pursuing Broadband access for several years and genuinely hopes to see this dream become a reality. For these reasons, I would like to pledge \$500.00 to help our town toward its goal of improved Broadband.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Logan-Weber  
Presque Isle Town Supervisor

## Letter of Support

Nick Williams <thewds@milwpc.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 11:27 AM

To: Christine Wolter <christinewolterpiwi@hotmail.com>

Dear Christine,

The Crab Lake Property Owners Association (CLPOA) pledges \$500.00 toward Presque Isle's upcoming Broadband project. The CLPOA Board speaks on behalf of its 82 Member-Owners and 101 Associate Members, all of which are classified as underserved, all of which live or spend time at the lake. We welcome the town's undertaking an infrastructure project to bring fiber to everyone's home. Since many of us were passed over in the last upgrade, the possibility of receiving city type speeds in our rural low density area is an answer to our prayers. In this new era of working from home improved Broadband speeds is not just a luxury, it is a necessity.

We look forward to our receiving the improved service and hope for a speedy implementation schedule.

For the CLPOA Board,

Nick Williams  
CLPOA Treasurer

Mary Jo Walker  
CLPOA Secretary

**Nick and Christine**-- I am following up on Nick's January 11 note requesting support and pledges for the Town of Presque Isle's Broadband Initiative. Carol and I strongly support the Town of Presque Isle's broadband initiative. We pledge \$1000 (One thousand dollars) to help fund this vital project. We will pay the pledge once the project commences construction, provided broadband service will be made available to every property owner having a home or cabin in Presque Isle.

Thank you for your work in this vitally important matter.

Richard and Carol Phillips  
6724 Wildcat Lake Road  
Presque Isle, WI  
(mailing address PO Box 214, Boulder Junction, WI 54512)



The Oxbow Lake Association fully supports the Town of Presque Isle's broadband initiative. We pledge \$250 to help fund this very important project.

Respectfully,

Otto Novak  
President Oxbow Lake Association

Good morning Christine,

The Frontier Lakes Owners Association fully supports the Town of Presque Isle's Broadband initiative. We pledge the amount of \$500 to help fund this very important project.

Thank you,

Gary Plouff - Secretary, Frontier Lakes Owners Association  
P.O. Box 342  
Boulder Junction, WI 54512

[garyplouff@gmail.com](mailto:garyplouff@gmail.com)

January 26,2022 Presque Broadband Committee %Presque Isle EDC 8518 Palmer Road Presque Isle, WI 54557

Re: High Speed Internet To Whom it May Concern

The Annabelle Lake Property Owners Association fully supports the Town of Presque Isle's broadband initiative. The Association pledges \$500 to help fund this very important project

Sincere Robert Heilman President, ALPOA

Christine,

The Lynx Lake Property Owners Association supports the Town of Presque Isle's broadband initiative. The Association pledges \$250 to help fund this project.

Fritz Behr  
Vice President/Treasurer, LLPOA  
PO Box 259, Presque Isle  
[cfbehr@gmail.com](mailto:cfbehr@gmail.com)  
Cell: (309) 507-0808

Presque Isle Broadband Committee  
% Presque Isle EDC  
8518 Palmer Road  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Christine

"The Friends of Armour Lake Association fully supports the Town of Presque Isle's broadband initiative. We pledge \$500 to help fund this very important project."

I'm sending your message to all Armour Lake residents and solicit individual pledges as well.

Friends of Armour Lake  
PO Box 31  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Tom Reinkober  
President FOAL  
703-943-7729



**Subject: PI Broadband initiative**

Nick and Christine-- The Wildcat Lake Association fully supports the Town of Presque Isle's broadband initiative. Our Lake Association pledges \$500 to help fund this very important project. This pledge is conditioned on the project going forward and on the broadband service being made available to all residents of Wildcat Lake on terms substantially the same as are made available to other residents of Presque Isle.

We polled our membership and had many enthusiastic responses of support. Several of our members have advised they plan to make their own pledges and offer letters of support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at this email address.

Joan Knoebel, President of the Wildcat Lake Association  
Wildcat Lake, Presque Isle Wisconsin

Dear Christine,

My wife and I personally pledge \$500 to help support Presque Isle's desire to come up with a ground based broadband solution. Too long has Presque Isle and a very large number of its residents suffered with inadequate speeds. By upgrading the town as a whole everyone will benefit – voters, property owners, businesses and more. By taking this historic step now the town will be well positioned to prosper for most of the rest of this century.

I commend the Broadband Committee and the Town Board for taking on this task.

Nick Williams  
7032 Ten O Five Dr  
Presque Isle WI 54557

[Reply](#)  
[Forward](#)

Dear Ms Wolter,

I'm emailing to make a personal pledge towards the installation of broadband cable service to my home in Presque Isle on Crab Lake. According to Nick Williams I can make this pledge through you (see below). If this isn't true would you tell me so and perhaps tell me the best way to pledge.

I pledge \$2,000. (Two thousand dollars).

Walter Gerken  
11361 Wilderness Drive Presque Isle WI 54557  
510-333-1718

Dear Christine,

I am the property owner of 22-775, also known as fire number 7059 Ten O Five Drive, Presque Isle, Wi 54557. Our property is accessed via the South Crab Lake Road. I have a local mailing address of P.O. Box 276, Presque Isle, Wi 54557.

For many years we have suffered with inadequate / marginal internet service. The glacial speed is exacerbated when other residents populate the area in the high season. We need higher speed upload and download capability that the project has proposed with fiber optic cable being installed to our home. Here are some items we cannot do:

1. We cannot participate in on line zoom meetings which require adequate bandwidth to participate.
2. Telehealth services do not adequately work over our connection.
3. Work projects and remote work via the internet is not possible without leaving our home.
4. Our visitors who have remote work situations cannot upload / download their documents to be able to work at our home. We would like our family members to be able to depend on good speed connectivity. This would induce them to stay longer.
5. Allow multiple people to utilize the internet at the same time on our property for their different needs. With adequate bandwidth and speed multiple users will be supported.
6. We would like to eliminate the current telephone land line and use our cell phones. Cell phone connectivity is almost impossible even with a cell signal booster. (especially when there is a widespread power outage.) We need to use VOI (voice over internet) cell phone connectivity. Our current cell signal is maybe 1 bar at best.

I think the goal of having fiber optic installed within 10 years is far too long. Satellite connectivity is not an option either as it is not an affordable, viable or consistent solution. With the latest Infrastructure legislation, more funding should be available for quicker implementation.

Thanks for your participation in this task.

Peter Williams

March 4, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Broadband Grant Office

Attn: Steffany Powell Coker

4822 Madison Yards Way

North Tower-6<sup>th</sup> Floor

Madison, WI 53705-9100

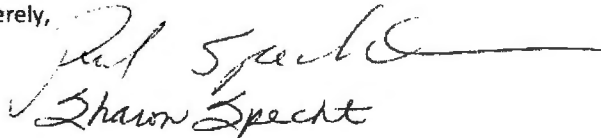
Dear Ms. Coker

I am writing you today to express my support for the Charter Communications' grant application for its proposed broadband enhancement project for the Town of Presque Isle. My wife Sharon and I have been owners of a home in Presque Isle since 1994 and full-time residents since 2008 and have wrestled with poor broadband service levels for much of that time. We know many people who can tell the same story. In addition, because of my volunteer work within the Town, I have been part of a Broadband Workgroup (now Committee) charged with determining the state of Broadband service throughout the Town and identifying various options for bringing the Town's broadband infrastructure and service levels into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What the group found was the entire town, at best, was underserved and it, among other things, was affecting the Town's long-term economic viability. Businesses requiring higher levels of broadband were suffering, entrepreneurs looking to work from home or move their businesses here were seeing lack of reasonable broadband as a major obstacle and individual residents could not get access to entertainment, tele-health and other modern day conveniences that require even a modest level of broadband service.

The Town has stepped up and committed \$1.5 million toward this initiative. As you know, Charter has contributed more than twice that amount. We need the PSC of Wisconsin to chip in the rest to make this project possible.

We ask that you please provide Charter with the grant funds needed to put Presque Isle on a level playing field with other areas in the state currently enjoying Broadband as envisioned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Specht" on the top line and "Sharon Specht" on the bottom line, written in a cursive style.

Paul and Sharon Specht

Christine -

We are retired full time residents of Presque Isle in the Frontier Lakes Development. We fully support your efforts to get high speed internet service in Presque Isle. The current service provided by Century Link is barely adequate. Due to very slow speeds watching a video or downloading a movie is not possible in our area. We will pledge \$250 if you can get this project approved. Also, we would support a real estate tax increase if that is what it takes to make faster broadband available in the area.

Mailing address:

Chris and Orin Greb

P.O. Box 331

Boulder Junction, WI 54512

715-385-2269

Physical address:

7685 Rustic Road

Presque Isle, WI 54557



November 22, 2021

Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup,

I received your letter dated 11/12/21 asking for my feedback on several questions:

- Why is improving broadband service important to you:
  1. I need to do my basic job remotely and need stable and fast internet,
  2. Myself, family and guest need to be able to work remotely with reliable and a fast internet connection,
  3. Being able to stream entertainment options important,
  4. Use smart devices remotely,
  5. Being able to use tela-health,
  6. Being able to participate in various educational services offered online,
  7. Being able to have stable communication with friends and family, and
  8. Being able to monitor my property,
- How will broadband improve the lifestyle for you and family?
  1. Allow the consistent and speedy access to entertainment,
  2. Be able to control smart devices used in my home,
  3. Allow our guest and family members to stay longer in Presque Isle,
  4. Reduce frustration with slow access,
  5. Not have to drive to another location to gain access to fast/stable internet,
- How might broadband impact our community?
  1. Increase property values. Good broadband is a public utility. Residential properties that do not have access to electricity carry lower values. The same is true for broadband,
  2. Increase the potential for economic development. New businesses will now look more closely at Presque Isle. Frustration among existing businesses will decrease with broadband and increase profitability,
  3. Better health care outcomes for residents who can use various tela-health options,
  4. Better educational opportunities for school age children and adults. Students can attend school remotely with stable fast broadband. Adults can take advantage of various educational opportunities that are offered online. Not providing broadband services is a form of economic/educational discrimination. Residents can stay in area versus moving to an area with broadband,
- What are your frustrations with your current internet service? I am building a house in Presque Isle and based on conversations with people I hear the following:
  1. Slow service
  2. Service not stable
  3. General frustration

With better broadband, myself, family and guest, can stay longer in Presque Isle. This means supporting local businesses. I try to spend locally. An investment by the community will help keep my spending and philanthropy local.

PG 2

Again, broadband is both an investment, but also think about broadband as a basic utility such as electricity. Also, we need to consider the next generation. While some people may say that we do not need broadband, younger people look at broadband as a basic right. Young people will not stay in area if they do not have access to broadband.

Tim & Jane Pire

12216 Ormes Rd

December 21, 2021

Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup  
c/o Presque Isle EDC  
8518 Palmer Road  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Dear Workgroup Members,

I have been following the efforts of the Workgroup as they seek to improve the broadband for Town of Presque Isle property owners. Thank you for your efforts!

Your letter dated November 12, 2021 pretty much summarizes the positive impact a high-speed, high-capacity, affordable broadband service would have on our community. I see the need for stable, sound, and secure internet access in terms of the workplace of today and the future. In a way the pandemic has had a significant impact on how certain types of work is done. For example, our sons and their spouses are in jobs or have careers or are taking classes that allow them to work remotely. If the broadband service is upgraded they would definitely spend more time at our home on Crab Lake. More time in the township means more dollars spent on groceries, gas, dining out, recreation, and so forth.

As certain careers continue to move to a more virtual platform, this might also change the dynamics of out-migration that have been plaguing many rural communities. I have worked most of my career in aging services and I know many northern Wisconsin counties including Vilas are facing a significant increase in older persons as a percentage of their overall population due in large part to the out-migration of young people. From experience I also know as young people move away, it creates challenges for older family members who may need to depend on them for support and in some cases care. This in turn places a greater burden on aging services providers who are already facing problems finding caregivers. High-speed, high-capacity, affordable broadband may very well be a selling point for young persons who are able to work remotely or businesses who rely on the internet.

As I said at the outset, I sincerely appreciate and support the efforts of the Workgroup and I hope you are successful at bringing improved broadband to the area – sooner rather than later!

Sincerely,

Jim Williams  
Local address: 7059 Ten-O-Five Drive  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Home address: 2425 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Christine, I assume that you are gathering response data for the Town Board regarding the Broadband enhancement proposals.

I am very much in favor of any program that will give us better access to the broadband.

My wife and I attended one of the first information sessions on this subject and were very impressed by the presentation and the amount of community interest.

We currently are “served” by Century Telephone. Actual internet speeds are almost always slower than advertised, and capacity needs to be expanded.

The Pandemic has created visibility to this need because of the need to work from home, increased visiting relatives who escape the cities, etc.

The pandemic has also changed the workplace by making “work from home” an acceptable alternative attendance at what used to be the normal workplace. This trend will continue – and expand in the future.

The points listed in the memo recently received are all perfectly valid and illustrate the need for the Town of Presque Isle to move forward with the broadband project – NOW!

The recently passed infrastructure legislation may well provide additional funding for this project, but I bet prompt action will be required to get in line for funding.

Now is the time for action,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.

Sincerely,

Dexter & Bonnie Free

To the Presque Isle Broadband Work group:

Thank you so very much for working on this project. The points that you listed are very well articulated and are very comprehensive.

- It is essential for every community to have broadband available and thus broadband is ESSENTIAL for the economic health of Presque Isle.
- Broadband internet will only become more and more important in our lives.
- We were just able to get internet at our vacation home on Oxbow Lake about 4 years ago. Two of my sons are able to work remotely and it meant that they could extend their time in the Northwoods. That does mean that they (and their family) brought more dollars into the local economy.
- I stayed at my cabin for 7 weeks last winter when there was concern about Covid. Since I was alone, the internet was essential in keeping me in touch with my family, my friends, and the world.
- With the major change in working remotely, Presque Isle has become an appealing place for a permanent residence for many people. Good quality broadband internet is essential for this movement to the Northwoods.

Again, I thank you for this work,  
Dorothea Torstenson

Good morning. I attended one of the information sessions last summer, and I was very impressed with the leadership and presentation. I'm writing to commend the PI Broadband Workgroup for its excellent work so far and to say why I support its efforts to bring broadband internet service to the Township of Presque Isle.

I've owned property on PI Lake for 8 years. In that time, I've seen internet access and speed increase from basically nothing to barely adequate. I consider internet access as necessary as gas and electric service for my home.

When I come to Presque Isle for the summer, the internet allows me to maintain contact with my family members, who live all across the country. It allows me to continue crucial aspects of my work uninterrupted. It also supplies me with vendors for goods and services that are not provided locally. This is also the case in my main residence, but much more in Presque Isle, where there is a limitation on selection, prices are necessarily higher, and vendors are not always courteous.

I understand that there are areas in the township where there is no signal at all, and this needs to be fixed ASAP. I can't imagine spending any extended time in a place without internet access. I also expect that a financial commitment to extending our broadband access will improve--to an acceptable level--the existing service to those of us who are just close enough to an existing node.

Thanks again for all your efforts! Sincerely, Sharon

--

Sharon Hels

Cell: 615 715 3739

Email: [shels53@gmail.com](mailto:shels53@gmail.com)

[www.vanderbilt.edu/vwc](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vwc)



To the Presque Isle Broadband Workgroup:

Thanks for your letter of November 12. I wanted to write to let you know that I fully support this effort. I own a vacation home in Presque Isle. The slow speeds and unreliable service, coupled with spotty cellular service, make it challenging to use my property as much as I'd like. Like most people, I need to be able to stay in contact with work, and my kids need reliable access to get their school work done. All of which negatively impacts my utilization of local businesses.

I think the more important issue for the town is that other areas have or are pursuing better service. If the problem were pervasive in the Norhwoods, Presque Isle would not be at a disadvantage. But, since other areas have or are getting broadband, we are disadvantaged. Not keeping pace with what other communities offer their residents will hurt our property values, hurt our businesses and, as a result, over time it will impair our property tax revenue and thus further harm our ability to invest in the town like other towns invest.

I am thankful you are pursuing this. It is a very thoughtful approach and I am happy to help any way I can.

Best regards,

Rob O'Keef  
8310 White Wolf Drive  
Presque Isle

224-545-3467

Good afternoon. We recently received your improving broadband update and request for comments.

First thank you for your efforts in helping to being an enhanced internet offering to the Presque Isle area. Our vacation cabin is off of Fireman's Point Dr. We currently utilize satellite service and on occasion have to upgrade since our monthly data plan gets quickly used up. The past year and a half has offered us the opportunity to spend more time up north as both Linda and I have the opportunity to work remotely. Our challenge however is having reliable service. We require dependable internet to host and participate in zoom meetings. It's embarrassing when it becomes "unstable" and connectivity is lost. We need to turn off other devices that are connected to the Wi-Fi to help alleviate the problem. If we had a more reliable service we would spend more time at the cabin, spend more money eating at local establishments, have additional family members who can also work remotely join us and better enjoy our significant investment.

This is an important issue for us and if we had a better solution than what's currently available we would spend more time in Presque Isle.

Thanks again for your efforts.



**Scott K. Laue JD, CFP®**

*Financial Advisor*

**Savant Wealth Management**

190 Buckley Drive  
Rockford, IL 61107

**815-227-0300**

**[savantwealth.com](http://savantwealth.com)**

Hi Christine,

My husband, Dan Hooyman and I have received the broadband inquiry letter. We have a vacation home in the NLOAA. Answers to the questions are below:

1. Why improving broadband service is important: Internet access and ability to use phones for social media is now considered a basic need. My husband and I are in our early 50's. We have 2 young adult sons (21 and 19) and their generation it is vital for everything they do. PI and Boulder Junction need to plan for the future in providing for this infrastructure for this younger generation. There is a misconception that young people "play on their phones all day". Not true. Our sons are deer hunting right now (I'm responding to this from my home in De Pere they are up there with Dan) and enjoy fishing and other outdoor activities. However, they have been more enticed going to girlfriends family place in Door County and Crivitz WI because our location is so primitive with technology.

2. Improve lifestyle: I am a work from home employee. Have been since 2018. If Internet was available (not talking about Hughes Net - the data caps make that unrealistic) it would mean I could work up there. And the boys could also connect with their university instead of going to town for basic needs in logging in for class work.

3. Community impact: We would be at our property more. While we wouldn't live there full time, we definitely would be at our place longer than a weekend and weeks over the summer. This means more \$\$ spent at restaurants, food, shopping, etc. And this includes any friends and family that the 4 of us invite to our place.

4. Current frustrations: we don't have Internet, so that's the greatest frustration. Hughes Net is just too expensive and even with the expense, there are data caps. We are on the list for the Starlink service, but have been waiting for their next step after making our deposit. We are hopeful something comes to fruition in 2022.

5. Comments: PI and Boulder Junction need to look at the future. Too many view these towns as retirement havens for baby boomers. And vacation destinations for us gen X'ers. But we are seeing the shift in this area from our sons and their friends. This isn't about attracting more people, improving infrastructure isn't something glamorous that is used in a tourist marketing campaign 😊! But it is necessary to keep people interested in staying and a basic need for anyone buying or building in the area.

Thank you for the letter and soliciting input from the community!

Sincerely,  
Emily Hooyman

Christine,

I am a resident who serves as an EMT with the Boulder Junction and PI fire departments. These departments are strictly volunteer, and when 911 calls come in, we are summoned from home to the station or the scene.

We are alerted either by radio or cell phone. My cell service (Verizon) at my cabin on Wildcat lake is poor, so internet service is important to me for wi-fi calling.

I need reliable internet service to contact my department using a cell phone application called "I am responding" which puts a notice on the board at the fire department that I am arriving and where.

While I often speak directly to county dispatch, the Boulder department is working diligently to have all members use the I am responding application which has many advantages.

Two years ago, my internet service was very poor, and through the good offices of State Representative Tiffany, Centurylink did make improvements.

That said, the DSL service is marginal at best, and frequently fails.

I am a retired professor with the Medical College of Wisconsin and continue to consult on a number of scientific research projects. A reliable, high-speed internet connection would make it possible to do more of this work from my cabin.

I believe that direct fiber or at least coaxial cable connections are critical to making the high speed network in PI a reality. I have several decades of working with radio frequency systems, and I know that high-speed cellular data systems are not practical for PI as the signals are very much line-of-sight. Given the local terrain, the region would need to be festooned with towers to make that happen. That would create a real eye-sore in an otherwise pretty pristine area. Satellite is a poor choice for two reasons. The first is that while downloads from the net are fast, uplink still will rely on DSL. The second is that like all satellite delivered data services (think dish TV), reliability is at the mercy of weather.

Thank you,  
Robert Prost, PhD  
6681 Carola Drive  
Presque Isle, Wisconsin

Hello,

I am writing to provide my full support to the Presque Isle Broadband initiative for new internet lines for the area. My wife and I purchased property a few years ago and we have been using it as a year round vacation property. We typically only come up for long weekends as we both work remote full time and need high speed internet access to complete our work. If there were high speed connections possible in Presque Isle we would definitely take full week long vacations and likely would live at the home part time. The time spent in the area and the local spending we would make would increase greatly. Right now we only have access to DSL services which is not sufficient to meet our work from home needs.

I fully support the Town of Presque Isle in their efforts to obtain high speed internet.

Thanks,

Tim

Timothy Meseck  
7931 Frontier Rd  
Presque Isle, WI 54557